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LD241430 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In the fifth stage of the Val-Fajr-10 Operations 24 March, Iranian troops "wiped out" an Iraqi infantry brigade and "liberated" three "strategic" heights, IRNA reported, adding that the Iranian forces have surrounded a commando brigade which is on the "verge of total destruction." According to a Tehran radio report on the Val-Fajr-10 operations, Iranian forces "destroyed" two Iraqi battalions in an unsuccessful counterattack. IRNA further reported that Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi positions in nine separate missions in the Val-Fajr-10 operational theater.

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that 6 missiles were fired at Tehran 24 March. IRNA reported that at least 10 people were killed and 100 others wounded in the missile attacks. Iran responded by firing two missiles at Baghdad, the agency reported. Iran had also fired 5 missiles at "economic and military" centers in Khanaqin and Basra the previous day in "revenge" for attacks on Iranian cities, according to an Iranian military statement cited by IRNA.

In other military developments, an Iraqi military spokesman denied Iranian claims that an Iraqi warplane was downed in the northern sector 23 March, INA reported. Iraqi warplanes also violated Turkish airspace while bombarding Kurdish "peshmerga" camps, according to ANATOLIA, which noted that the two planes raided targets in the buffer zone 1 km from the Turkish border. In the Persian Gulf, Iranian gunboats hit a Cypriot-flagged merchant ship, causing a fire, Nicosia radio reported.

Concerning Iraq's use of chemical weapons in its attacks on Iranian cities, WIH Head Kamal Kharrazi said that the "silence of international circles" toward these crimes has "encouraged" Iraq to continue these "atrocities", IRNA reported. This makes Iran "more suspicious that certain members of the Security Council are behind the Iraqi chemical attacks," Kharrazi added. Noting that Iran had previously decided not to use chemical weapons, he declared that should international circles continue to be silent, Iran "will be forced to defend itself."

Israel

Raids in Lebanon—Israeli aircraft attacked "terrorist" targets northeast of Sidon 23 and 24 March, hitting depots used to store military equipment, IDF radio announced. A mobile SAM launcher was also hit in the 23 March raid. All aircraft returned safely to base after both attacks, the radio said. Palestinian sources cited by AFP disclosed that at least 7 people were killed and 15 injured in the 23 March attack, which targeted bases of the DFLP, PFLP, and Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council. Buildings used by the Popular Liberation Army, a local Sunni militia, were also destroyed, Beirut radio reported.

The Israeli jets dropped a number of delayed action bombs, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. As for the 24 March raid, Voice of Lebanon radio said the Israeli jets struck at the same positions in the 'Abrah area bombarded the previous day. The radio cited preliminary estimates that the bombardment caused five casualties. Israeli gunboats also bombarded Palestinian positions in the hills around Sidon, Beirut radio noted.

Vanunu Conviction—Mordekhay Vanunu was convicted on all charges against him, Jerusalem radio reported 24 March, noting that he was accused of espionage and treason. His sentence will be announced 27 March, and it is expected to be life imprisonment, the radio added. Vanunu's conviction results from his disclosure of information about Israel's nuclear program to a British newspaper.

Policy on Shultz Plan—The Inner Cabinet adjourned its 23 March meeting without making a decision on the Shultz plan, Jerusalem radio reported. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recommended that no decision be made until after the positions of the other parties concerned are clarified, and he stressed that Israel does not have to be the first to provide an answer to the U.S. initiative. Shamir told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that a vote could be held at the latter's insistence, but he pointed out that a tie vote would mean the defeat of the proposal submitted.

Territories—Jerusalem radio reported that the territories were relatively quiet 23 March, noting that Palestinian sources ascribed this to the recent wave of arrests. A Palestinian lawyer from Tulkarm who had defended rioters is among those who have been placed under administrative arrest, the radio disclosed. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the radio that the arrest campaign is directed at "organizers, agitators, and those who actually take part in violent activities."

ICO Conference, Support for Saudi Arabia

The Iranian delegation walked out of the ICO conference in Amman in protest of various draft resolutions being debated by the participants, delegation head Mohammad 'Ali Tashkiri told AFP 24 March. The anti-Iran tone of the resolutions on the Gulf war and the hajj was "dictated by the reactionary current," Tashkiri charged.

Conference participants have an "Islamic obligation" to announce "holy jihad" against Israel and the United States, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared

in a message to the ICO reported by JANA. Al-Qadhdhafi also called on all Islamic nations to break relations with Israel and its "main prop and financier," the United States.

Regarding support for Saudi Arabia, an ICO statement carried by Amman radio expressed "firm and unwavering" solidarity with Saudi Arabia against "aggressive threats" made by Israel. The Muslims will "preserve and defend" Saudi Arabia, the site of the most sacred Islamic holy places, the statement declared.

An "official source" in Cairo cited by MENA denounced Israeli "threats to use force" against Saudi Arabia and declared that Egypt will repulse with "all firmness and force" any attack on the "fraternal" Kingdom. In a statement carried by JANA, the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau also condemned the "Zionist threats" against Saudi Arabia and charged the U.S. Administration with "collusion." The statement emphasized the importance of establishing unity to confront the "challenges" to Arab existence.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisian, Algerian, and Libyan officials have agreed to establish a joint company to build a pipeline to transport Algerian natural gas through Tunisia to Libya, TAP reported. The cost of the project is estimated at around 400 million dollars.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Meeting Continues in Amman

S·ssion, Speeches 22 Mar

JN231207 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Mar 88 pp 8-10

[Excerpts] Amman-PETRA-JNA—The 17th session of the Islamic states foreign ministers resumed at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman yesterday morning. The session, which was chaired by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, adopted the slogan: "Islamic Solidarity With the Palestinian Arab People in Palestine and the Occupied Territories."

Speeches by a number of delegates were delivered, and the four committees stemming from the conference also began their meetings to discuss the conference agenda.

At the beginning of the session, ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada congratulated Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri for his election as chairman of the conference. [passage omitted]

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, then delivered a speech in which he greeted the Jordanian king, government, and people for hosting the conference. He also greeted the brave Palestinian people, who have recorded an epic of challenge and steadfastness against the Israeli occupation. He also congratulated Tahir al-Masri for his election as chairman of the conference. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri addressed the conference, voicing his thanks and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people for their hospitality and sincere efforts to provide an appropriate atmosphere to the conference. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani then addressed the conference, thanking Jordan for hosting the conference and congratulating Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri for his election as chairman of the conference. [passage omitted]

He welcomed initiatives calling for the convening of an international peace conference to solve the Palestinian problem on a permanent base. He also explained some current efforts to resolve the Afghan issue, stressing Pakistan's principled position on ending this problem, which has entered its 8th year.

He added that the Iraq-Iran dispute is a source of deep concern for the Arabs and Muslims because of its negative effects on both countries. He appealed to the conferees to draw up acceptable ways to bring about peace in the region through the implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 598 and through Arab, Islamic, and international diplomatic efforts. [passage omitted]

The head of the Bangladesh delegation praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to rally support for convening an international peace conference. [passage omitted] He also greeted the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. He said the uprising has exposed the brutal crimes of the Zionist entity, which violate the international law. [passage omitted]

He appealed to Iraq and Iran to exert every effort to end the war. He voiced support for the UN secretary general's efforts in this regard, and welcomed Iraq's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 and urged Iran to follow suit. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a speech in which he said: It is a source of pleasure that our conference is being held in fraternal Jordan. On behalf of the Iraqi delegation, it pleases me to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite of Jordan, and to the Jordanian Government and its fraternal people, for the hospitality accorded to us. [passage omitted]

Then Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister addressed the conference. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Makes Speech

NC230610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Speech by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid at the ICO foreign ministers conference in Amman on 22 March—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, foreign ministers of Islamic states:

I greet you with a salaam, the blessed salutation used by Islam. I start my speech to you with Almighty God's words: "You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God;" and also his words: "Thus we have made of you an ummah, justly balanced, that we might be witnesses over the nations, and the apostle a witness over ourselves." [Koranic verses] Verily, God said the truth.

It gives me pleasure that we meet today in Amman, Jordan, close to Al-Aqsa Mosque, and under the protection of Bani Hashim. We meet on this honorable land, whose air is fragrant with glorious history and whose soil is perfumed with the blood of martyrs.

God singled out Jordan by making it the gateway to conquests and the homeland of victory. The battle of Mu'tah took place on its soil, God granted victory at Al-Yarmuk, and from here the army of conquests set out to uphold the flag of Islam in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

Perhaps it is good fortune that this distinguished conference is meeting in Amman a few months after the convening of the Arab summit conference, which was a conference of detente and concord. The convocation of these conferences on this benevolent land is the most eloquent indication of Jordan's status among the Arabs and Muslims and of His Majesty King Husayn's role in unifying ranks.

From this podium, allow me to express profound thanks for the warm hospitality accorded us by the Jordanian king, government, and people. It also pleases me to sincerely congratulate His Excellency Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for his election as chairman of our meeting. I am confident that with God's help, with Al-Masri's wise and alert chairmanship, and with your prominent and appreciated contribution, we will all be able to conduct our conference on a level compatible with the grave challenges facing it and with the great hopes pinned on it.

Mr Chairman: The ICO, under the aegis of which we are meeting today, is not a mere political or geographic gathering. More than anything else, it is a gathering of states and peoples who share faith in Islam as a creed, morals, and supreme ideals. Islam is a religion that calls for peace. Its slogan is brotherhood. Its course is justice and moderation. It is most proper if the house of Islam, composed of various states and peoples, is a house of security and peace, a haven of dignity and progress, and a beacon of knowledge and civilization.

The situation in the Islamic world brings pain to our hearts because there is no security or peace and because funds are dissipated, blood is shed, and divisions are prevalent. We are right when we say that the Islamic world is being subjected to extremely perilous external challenges. It is correct to state that, despite its extensive resources and great potential, the Islamic world has failed to confront the dangers that face it.

More serious still is the fact that the voice of reason and wisdom is fading and the bonds of solidarity and harmony have been severed, while the calls for radicalism and extremism resound, turning differences among brothers into bloody confrontations, which exhaust the Islamic world and its resources, impede its progress, and distract it from its basic issues to conflicts that benefit no one.

Islam is a call for righteousness and peace. God almighty is peace, and he invites us to live in peace. We Muslims are the most worthy of having peace reign among us and of having peace as the basis of our relations with other nations and peoples. Entrenching the foundations of peace is an indispensible requirement which has no alternative if our Islamic nation wants to pool its resources and potential in a historic and cultural response to the real challenge facing us, namely the challenge of progress and development.

Egypt believes that peace is indivisible and that it is the right of all parties. We also strongly believe that peace cannot be established or last unless it is based on justice. Peace is neither acknowledgement of the status quo nor capitulation to force and suppression. Force may impose a status quo but it cannot establish rights or peace. Egypt has always believed that no real peace can be established in the Middle East unless a just and permanent solution is found for the Palestinian issue, the crux of the ongoing conflict in the region.

Egypt has often cautioned those who imagine that the passage of time will ensure that the status quo will become an acceptable fact. They forget that the people's right to their homelands can not be eroded by the mere passage of time, and that the people themselves will not be forgotten.

The valiant Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories confirms that the people of Palestine neither tolerate injustice nor succumb to oppression and suppression. Long years of Israeli occupation have engendered a generation which is more dedicated to gaining its rights and more insistent on living free in a free land.

The Palestinian uprising is not a mere passing phase expressing the rejection of and resistance to occupation. It is my conviction that this uprising is a major turning point in the course of the Palestinian issue. It has proved to the entire world that an established fact will never become an acceptable situation. It has been 4 months since the uprising began, and in that time it has become clear that Israel's tyrannical violence has only strengthened the uprising.

But the fact that matters is that they can not possibly remain as they are, and it logically follows that we must act to change them. If the uprising has put an end to the illusionary belief that the status quo can be perpetuated, it has also simultaneously paved the way for serious action aimed at reaching a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue.

Palestine and its holy Jerusalem will forever be in the heart of every Muslim. Its issue will remain our primary issue, and support for the Palestinian people and their struggle will remain our sacred duty. However, it is my belief that support for the Palestinian people does not come through raising slogans, nor does it come through adopting stands that are unrelated to the actual situation and facts. Support for Palestine and its people comes through our awareness of our goal, through our resolve to embrace it without exaggeration or negligence.

The blood of martyrs and the suffering of victims are too dear to be wasted uselessly or in vain. There must be a conscious move made if the Palestinian people's uprising is to achieve its desired results. We must agree on joint rules for action, and this makes it necessary that the parties directly concerned coordinate among themselves and reach an understanding.

We must be able to move as one in our quest to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights within the framework of a comprehensive and just settlement that will take into consideration the realities of our contemporary world and the balance of power in the international arena.

We believe that the most practical and acceptable way to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East is through the convening of an international conference for peace within the framework of the United Nations, to be attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO, and with the participation of the UN Security Council's permanent member states.

Acting upon this belief, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak announced his initiative in January 1988, aiming at reviving the stalemated peace efforts. At this time, the Palestinian uprising had won itself a place on the world political map.

Several ideas and initiatives have been tabled since then. There are positive elements in these initiatives as well as points which need further examination. We should address these ideas objectively; we should endorse what suits us and not reject anything offhandedly.

Mr Chairman: Jerusalem was the destination of the prophet's isra' [overnight angel-escorted journey to Al-Aqsa Mosque], the first qiblah [direction which Muslims face during prayers], and the third holiest town in Islam. As such, it is a place for which all Muslims feel particular responsibility. We regard Arab Jerusalem as part of the occupied Arab territories, from which Israel must fully withdraw.

Egypt vehemently supports the conclusions reached by the Jerusalem committee, which convened in Morocco in January at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco. Egypt has matched its words with deeds. Jerusalem was the most important issue which President Muhammad Husni Mubarak discussed with the U.S. and West European leaders. Mubarak confirmed Jerusalem's status and our rejection of Israel's decision to annex it and make it its capital.

Mr Chairman: God has said, "The believers are but a single brotherhood. So make peace and reconciliation between your two contending brothers, and fear God, that ye may receive mercy." [Koranic verse]. The prophet also said: "Whoever fights us is not one of us." Muslims have been taught by the Koran and the prophet to revere the value of peace and justice. We, as members of the ICO, who abide by its charter, desist from using force and from threatening to use it against any fellow ICO member. We honor the territorial integrity and political independence of all ICO member countries.

The Iraq-Iran war is escalating and expanding. Peaceful citizens are terrorized in their homes. Muslims' blood is being shed by his brother Muslims. Resources and potentials are being exhausted. Disputes among the sons of the same nation are mounting, and divisions and sectarian feuds are being fomented. It is both deplorable and regrettable that this hideous tragedy should have continued for 8 long years and that efforts to repulse the intransigents and aggressors have been unsuccessful.

"Has not the time arrived for the believers, with humility in their hearts, to engage in remembering God and the truth which has been revealed to them?" [Koranic verse] Has not the time come to consolidate efforts to bring about an immediate cease-fire, in order to stop the bloodshed and to make Muslims feel safe in their homes?

Influenced by its Islamic conscience and in implementing God's judgement, Egypt supports any effort aimed at halting this ugly fighting between two Muslim brothers. Egypt calls for the immediate and full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and salutes fraternal Iraq's response to the peace efforts and goodwill services.

First, we are advocates of peace. We believe that the continuation of fighting between two sisterly Muslim states is not in Muslims' interests. While we reject domination attempts and hegemony, we open our hearts in genuine Islamic brotherhood and appeal to Iran to respond to the religious and sensible call to stop wasting Islamic blood, to make Muslims feel secure in their homes, and to divert efforts and potential to reconstruction so that the Islamic ranks will reemerge, united in confronting the dangers and challenges surrounding us.

While calling on Iran to respond to peace efforts, I stress here that the Gulf war is beginning to threaten the entire Islamic nation. Therefore, halting it is a joint responsibility that must be shared by all Islamic countries. These countries must take a firm stand against its continuation, and must exert active efforts to stop the shedding of Muslims' pure blood and to achieve God's will in establishing peace and fraternity between the two neighborly Muslim peoples.

Mr Chairman: The fraternal Muslim people of Afghanistan have been struggling for 9 years to preserve their Islamic identity and to live in freedom and dignity on their soil without foreign domination or intervention. We salute the heroism of this struggling people's revolt and we support their legitimate heroic strife.

At the same time, we welcome the Soviet Union's recent plan for withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan so that the fraternal Afghan people will be able to decide their future by themselves, in accordance with their free will and without any foreign intervention. We call for the implementation of this withdrawal without delay so that the territory of Islamic Afghanistan can be liberated and so Afghanistan can assume its role among the nonaligned countries.

Egypt also supports the efforts of the UN secretary general's representative to reach a comprehensive agreement for settling this problem and for recovering the fraternal Afghan people's peace and stability.

Mr Chairman: Regarding the situation in Lebanon, we would like to highlight with pain and regret the acts of violence taking place between two brothers and sons from the same homeland. Islam, a religion of tolerance and compassion, prohibits what is going on in Lebanon.

We are sure that the root causes of the Lebanese problem lie in foreign interference in the affairs of this fraternal country. We emphasize our concern for Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity and call on all peace-loving forces to act to restore Lebanon to its previous state: a homeland for peace and coexistence and a center of culture.

We note with satisfaction the protocol signed in Belgrade to settle some humanitarian issues between Turkey and Bulgaria. We would also like to express our hopes for further steps that will safeguard the basic rights of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria and remove all causes of tension in relations in this sensitive region.

Mr Chairman: Islam does not discriminate between peoples and nations. People are equal and the people who are the most righteous are the ones whom God honors the most.

"Mankind! We created you from a single male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other. Verily, the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you." [Koranic verse]

From this Islamic standpoint, we hail the heroic struggle of our brothers in Africa who have decided to end the hateful racial discrimination. We support and back their struggle, and declare our full support for the Namibian people and their legitimate struggle for their freedom and independence.

Mr Chairman: the distances in today's world have become shorter and its many interests are intertwined. Consequently, security has become an indivisible international issue. We welcome the achievements of the two superpowers and their agreement to limit the destructive nuclear weapons. We hope that this agreement will create a relaxed and peaceful climate, for we believe that such a climate would have an effect on the entire international situation, as well as on several regional conflicts.

Mr Chairman: An Islamic call conference was convened in Cairo early in March at the request of the Al-Azhar mosque. It was attended by Muslim scholars and ulema from 88 countries. These Muslim scholars and thinkers met to study the Islamic state of affairs in order to explain the shari'a and the stand of religion on the events and problems which Muslims encounter in their daily lives.

The Islamic call conference issued valuable recommendations which emphasized the purity of our true religion and highlighted Islam's views on a number of important issues that concern Muslims. "But no, by the Lord, they can have no faith, until they make thee judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against thy decision, but accept them with the fullest conviction." [Koranic verse]

In view of the importance of these recommendations and resolutions, the Egyptian delegation has requested that they be accepted and distributed as one of the documents of the conference.

I would like to refer here to the resolutions passed by the Islamic call conference regarding the sacredness of the two holy shrines and the Al-Aqsa mosque. The distinguished and God-fearing Muslim scholars stated unanimously that the two holy shrines and the Al-Aqsa Mosque are sacred places which the faithful should not desecrate, attack, or violate with ill intentions or with foul words or deeds. It is inadmissible to shed blood or cause panic among worshippers in the shrines. The protection of the sanctity of the shrines is a sacred and lasting duty of Muslims.

In keeping with this opinion, the Islamic call conference made the following recommendations:

It dismissed and denounced the call for internationalizing the two holy shrines, asserting that this idea conflicts with the word of God, the teachings of the Prophet, and the views shared by the Muslim public. It announced that demonstrations and political marches in the two holy towns are religiously prohibited, and it called on the Saudi rulers, who are in legal charge of the two holy shrines, to take the necessary protective measures that will maintain order, avoid sedition and turmoil, and allow worshippers to perform their rites in peace and tranquillity.

We in Egypt, in deference to the sacredness of the holy shrines and out of our eagerness to see the pilgrimage rituals performed in a faithful way, with the proper

veneration and piety, call on the Islamic foreign ministers conference to give due consideration to these recommendations passed by the Islamic call conference, which was held in Cairo from 4 to 9 March 1988.

Mr Chairman: Islam is a faith which favors productive work and the enjoyment of a good life. It recommends cooperation among Muslims as a basis for establishing an Islamic economy and maintaining social progress.

It is painful to contemplate the current economic conditions in the Muslim world. The majority of Muslim countries are unable to feed their people, and most rely too heavily upon the importation of foodstuffs from abroad. In 1987, Muslim countries imported $22 billion worth of food, while their exports were a meager $5 billion. This is a situation where greater efforts at self-reliance are needed if the Muslim world is to become more secure with regard to its food supply.

There is an acute economic crisis in the Islamic world, a crisis which goes deeper than its apparent manifestations, a crisis in the economic structure itself. I am completely convinced that there is an urgent need to build strategies which are consistent with the tenets of Islam and which are inspired by the proper understanding of and the firm belief in the Muslim values of integrity and solidarity.

We need to take political measures which are extensive and cohesive, for Muslims should stand together. We should pool together our resources and abilities to formulate a new economic system commensurate with our situation and our values and beliefs.

Mr Chairman: Virtually all of our countries belong in the Third World. Like all other developing countries, they are faced with the problem of foreign debts, which have become a serious impediment to development efforts. Our views on this problem are generally compatible with those held by other developing nations.

However, we must also underline the special ties among Muslim countries. We believe that the developed countries have a moral and political obligation to be more lenient in handling the issue of Third World debts and in helping developing nations emerge from this situation.

Mr Chairman: Egypt, a co-founder of the ICO, strongly believes in the organization's mission and its effective role in enhancing solidarity and cooperation among member countries. We have high regard for the efforts which the ICO is exerting in the international arena for the purpose of establishing a better community in which peace and security will prevail.

Egypt, like all other members of the organization, desires to see the ICO General Secretariat perform its duties under the most favorable circumstances. Egypt appreciates the current efforts to enhance the efficiency of the organization under the present conditions and with the available resources.

Mr Chairman: I am confident that the Islamic world will brave the storm. I am confident that its agonies and conflicts will fade away as it finds its way to a new dawn. I see a strong and united Muslim world living up to its values of truth and justice, generating prosperity for its own people and others.

Peace be with you, and may the blessings and mercy of God be upon you.

23 Mar Session Detailed

JN231351 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1212 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—The 17th conference of the ICO foreign ministers concluded their third session at the Royal cultural Center at 1315 today. Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister and chairman of the conference, announced that the next session will be held at 1600 today.

ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada announced at the beginning of the third session that Saudi Arabia donated $10 million to a number of ICO institutions. He expressed his thanks to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, for this donation. Chairman Tahir al-Masri also thanked Saudi Arabia for this generous donation.

The heads of the Saudi, Syrian, Pakistani, Libyan, Iranian, Chadian, Nigerian, Guinean, and Senegalese delegations delivered speeches at this session. They thanked the Jordanian king, government, and people for the hospitality and efforts exerted to provide a suitable atmosphere for making the conference a success.

The delegates praised the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory against the continuation of the Israeli occupation and its repressive measures against citizens there. They condemned the continuous Israeli occupation fo the Arab territories and its rejection of the initiatives to achieve peace in the Middle East.

In their speeches, the heads of the delegations affirmed their support for the convening of an international peace conference in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. They called for ending the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful methods on the basis of Security Council Resolution No 598, and highly praised Iraq's stand in support of this resolution.

The heads of the delegations condemned the racist regime in South Africa, which deprives the African majority of their legitimate rights. They also called for assisting the African states which are facing drought.

Support for Saudis Reiterated

JN231559 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—The ICO has reiterated its support for Saudi Arabia in facing Israeli threats. In a cable to Saudi monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada said: Any aggression against Saudi Arabia will be considered an aggression against the Islamic world.

In his cable, Pirzada affirmed that the ICO will not hesitate to use all moral or military methods in its support for Saudi Arabia. This stand comes in the wake of Israeli threats to destroy the Chinese missiles which Saudi Arabia recently received.

'Solidarity' Statement Issued

JN231736 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Mar 88

["Text" of statement issued by the 17th ICO conference of foreign ministers "in solidarity with the Saudi Government against the recent Israeli threats" in Amman on 23 March]

[Text] The 17th ICO conference of foreign ministers has been informed of the aggressive threats launched by the Zionist enemy government against the security and safety of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a founder state of the ICO which embraces the most sacred Islamic places—the holy mosque in Mecca and the prophet's mosque.

The conference affirms that these threats constitute a blatant violation of the UN Charter and a serious threat to the Islamic holy places and to an ICO member.

The conference announces the Islamic nation's firm and unwavering stand on the side of Saudi Arabia to safeguard its security and safety and to preserve the Islamic and Muslims sanctities. The conference also announces that the Islamic world is fully eager to preserve and defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its Islamic sanctities in the face of these threats.

Draft Resolutions Approved

JN231557 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] At its 3d meeting this morning under Nabih al-Nimr, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the political, legal, and information affairs committee approved several draft resolutions that were listed on the committee's agenda.

The committee approved draft resolutions on: the enhancement of Islamic solidarity for combating air piracy; the Islamic countries' security and solidarity; the critical situation in the Horn of Africa; the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; the situation in Afghanistan; the Islamic Broadcasting Union; cooperation between the ICO and international and regional organizations; the policy of racial discrimination adopted by the racist minority regime in South Africa, and on the South African authorities' policy of undermining security.

The committee will submit its recommendations on these draft resolutions after discussions are completed on the other draft resolutions listed on the agenda.

'Aziz Names Iran 'Aggressor'

JN232055 Amman Television Service in English 2015 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz who heads Iraq's delegation to the OIC was interviewed by our reporter Samar Dahmash on the developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

[Begin recording] [Dahymash] Mr Minister, in today's address, Iran accused you of allegations of prolonging the war and escalating it and they said that if the aggressor is proclaimed, they would stop the war. Do you have any comment on this?

['Aziz] My comment is the aggressor in this war is Iran. Iran initiated this war and Iran bears the responsibility for its continuation. Iraq does not have any interest in escalating the war because Iraq has a great interest in peace. And we showed this interest for the conflict and throughout the conflict and from the beginning.

The international public opinion, the international organizations know very well the position of Iraq and such sort of statements which are made by the Iranian representatives are not authentic and credible.

[Dahmash] Now that Iran sent a delegation to this conference, the OIC, do you think there is a possibility of opening new channels of dialogue?

['Aziz] No. Iran has boycotted all the Islamic summits. But sometimes, they choose to attend ministerial meetings to use the forum of those meetings for propaganda reasons. They are not serious neither in their participation in the works of the conference and they are not seeking any avenue for an end to the war.

[Dahmash] UN secretary general recently called for a new round of talks. Have you considered this demand?

['Aziz] We are still considering it. It is first up to the Iranians to reply because they have to be there before the Iraqi envoy. We are considering it seriously.

[Dahmash] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Al-Shar' Address 23 Mar

JN231632 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1518 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister and head of the Syrian delegation to the 17th conference of the ICO foreign ministers, has said that the uprising in the occupied Arab territory has restored the shining pages of our nation's history and the inevitable victory. We in Syria have never forgotten these pages despite the serious retreat and distorted vision in the Arab situation during the past few years.

In a speech delivered today at the ICO conference, Al-Shar' added: Representatives of Islamic countries on all continents near the land of Palestine, are meeting during its popular uprising, which has become the title of our conference. Its continual sacrifices and great symbols have great significance.

The Palestinian people are determined more than ever before to liberate their homeland, to which they reject any alternative, and to regain their rights, over which they refuse to bargain.

Al-Shar' asserted that the uprising has affirmed to the entire world that no peace can be achieved without ending the Israeli occupation of all the occupied Arab territories. The uprising, he added, has also affirmed that the Palestinian people will not accept less than achieving independence and regaining their complete national rights.

Al-Shar' added: We, on our part, add that any international conference that does not enjoy full powers to implement the UN resolutions cannot be a legitimate conference. Nobody will be deceived by the capability or desire of the United States to pressure Israel.

The foreign minister stressed that if the U.S. Administration cannot guarantee the PLO's right to have an office at the United Nations, how can it guarantee any national Palestinian rights? Nobody will be deceived by Israel's supposed desire or seriousness to achieve peace. All Israeli leaders have long lists of noes which make peace in the region impossible.

Al-Shar' said: Fortunately, the Arab side, which desires a just and comprehensive peace, is not the party whose fingers are burnt in the fire this time. The other side must review its old calculations and policies. The Israelis are now listening to the issue of losing peace opportunities about which Israel used to speak to the Arabs from their own friends before their enemies.

In his speech at the ICO conference, the foreign minister noted that the largest Arab confrontation country's reconciliation with the enemy encouraged that enemy to annex Jerusalem and Golan and to invade Lebanon.

Al-Shar' added that in light of the popular uprising which has been consolidated in a united and continuous struggle in various methods in the Golan and southern Lebanon, how can any of us make concessions to this enemy?

He added that if Syria did not make concessions to Shultz when his fleets and warships were covering the sea opposite us, how can we make any concessions to him while the hands of the Israelis and Americans are in the fire of this brave uprising?

Al-Shar' noted that if Syria rejected the agreement aimed at legitimizing the Israeli hegemony over the Arabs how can it agree on any ideas aimed at legitimizing Israeli hegemony over the Palestinian people and the occupied Arab territory?

Concluding his speech, Al-Shar' said: Proceeding from what I have said nobody shall be surprised if he feels that Syria—leader, party, and people—supports and backs, with all that it can, the uprising of the Palestinian Arabs and that it is eager to safeguard it from plotting and circumvention.

Al-Shar' News Confererence

JN240829 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 Mar 88 pp 1, 5

[By Nermeen Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Syria Wednesday appeared to be signalling a change in its earlier rejection of the new American proposal for peace in the Middle East and leaving the door open for modifications in the plan by saying that it's reply to the plan will be presented in the form of "questions."

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar' said Syria was willing to accept any "realistic peace initiative" which would be compatible with Arab consensus and would guarantee the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and statehood.

Al-Shar', speaking to reporters in an informal press conference at the resident of the Syrian ambassador to Jordan, said such peace should come only through an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The new American peace plan, presented to the leaders of Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Israel by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, provides for an international conference but states that the international powers attending it will not have any arbitration powers.

Al-Shar' did not elaborate on what he meant by a "realistic" initiative but it was apparent that he was reiterating the Syrian demand that the Security Council members would have arbitration powers in the proposed international conference, and that any settlement should be based on Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders and realisation of the Palestinian people's right to statehood.

Al-Shar' pointed out that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who has voiced vehement opposition to the Shultz plan, had not accepted the concept of an international conference. "Shamir has not accepted the idea," Al-Shar' said. "And (Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres) is only thinking of it as an umbrella for bilateral negotiations and agreements."

Al-Shar' rejected the notion that Peres might be willing to reach peace with the Arabs on the basis of a just and comprehensive settlement to the conflict. He said there had been "misguided efforts" to give the impression that "Shamir rejects while Peres accepts, while, in reality, Peres does not accept the idea of an independent Palestinian state or withdrawal to pre-67 borders or return of Jerusalem" to the Arabs.

"Nor does he intend to give the Palestinians any of their rights," he said. "How can anyone claim that Peres accepts while Shamir refuses?"

Al-Shar' confirmed that Damascus had refused to receive American presidential envoy Philip Habib who visited the region earlier this week. But, Al-Shar' said, the Syrian stand should not be taken as a rejection of dialogue with the U.S., since Damascus' refusal to receive the envoy came because it did not "trust him."

"Our position towards Habib is that he is not trustworthy," Al-Shar' said, explaining that Syria had stopped dealing with Habib since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Al-Shar' said that contacts to improve Syria's relations with the PLO were under way, but "until now, we cannot say this dialogue has brought concrete results." Syrian-PLO differences were not based on "personal grudges, but because of political stands adopted by some PLO leaders."

Al-Shar' said Syria remained committed to strict adherence of its support for the Palestinian people and their rights.

"Syria has carried this burden and will continue to do so," Al-Shar' said. "Our stand is that no bargaining over Palestinian rights."

Asked whether a recent speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad indicated that Damascus might be willing to accept bilateral negotiations and agreements between some Arab states and Israel, Al-Shar' said: "This is only one half of the statement.

"The other half is that how can Syria refuse any realistic plan for a peaceful and fair settlement of the Palestinian problem with guarantees for the Palestinian people's rights?"

Replying to questions on the Syrian role in Lebanon, Al-Shar' said a solution would continue to elude the strife-torn country as long as "no common ground of understanding is reached among the various factions and no guarantees are provided for constitutional and political reform in the country."

He declined to say whom Syria would support in the forthcoming presidential elections in Lebanon.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Al-Shar' would only say that Syria was concerned over "the developments in the war and anxious to contain its spillovers."

Answering a JORDAN TIMES question over his recent statement that Britain did not see eye to eye with the Arabs over peace efforts, Al-Shar' said he did not join an Arab League delegation which visited the British capital as part of the Arab effort to seek international support for the Palestinian uprising since Syria does not have diplomatic relations with Britain.

However, he said Syria received reports indicating that "Britain did not deal seriously with the Arab proposals carried by the committee."

However, France, he said, "gave constructive and positive viewpoints over the proposed international conference and Israeli withdrawal of occupied territories."

He added that both the Soviet Union and China shared identical views with the Arabs.

Asked about Syrian-Iraqi relations after the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November, Al-Shar' said: "There are no (reconciliation) efforts now."

However, he said Syria was refraining from "replying to the hostile media campaign from Baghdad."

Iran Pulls Out of Conference

NC240800 Paris AFP in English 0754 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, March 24 (AFP)—Iran has pulled out of the ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Amman, Sheikh Mohammad Ali Tashhiri, the Iranian delegation head said Thursday.

"We have decided to boycott the conference's closing session and to leave as soon as possible," he said.

The conference ends Friday and has so far sidestepped any mediation efforts between Iran and Iraq in the seven-year-old Gulf war. Iran had criticized Jordan, the host country, for siding with Iraq.

'Reactionary' Resolutions Cited

NC240900 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, March 24 (AFP)—Iran has pulled out of a meeting here of foreign ministers from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) because of the "reactionary" resolutions it is debating, Sheikh Mohammad 'Ali Tashkiri said Thursday.

"We have decided to boycott the conference's closing session and to leave as soon as possible," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, charging that resolutions on the Gulf war and the Mecca pilgrimage had been "dictated by the reactionary current."

Conference sources told AFP that delegates in a political committee had upheld United Nations Resolution 598 and condemned Iran for refusing to abide by it. The resolution calls for an immediate cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, a prisoner-of-war exchange, a troop withdrawal to internationally recognized borders and an inquiry into the war's origins.

The Iranian official said the conference, which ends Friday, had adopted resolutions unfavorable to Iran on the Gulf war and the Moslem "hajj" (pilgrimate) to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Last July's pilgrimate saw the deaths of 402 people, including 275 from Iran, during a crowd stampede triggered by an Iranian political demonstration outside the grand mosque, according to Saudi sources.

But Iran charged that the pilgrims were killed when Saudi security forces opened fire on a peaceful gathering.

Iran has also criticized Jordan, the OIC host country, for siding with Iraq in the Gulf war.

Iraq-Iran 'Argument' Reported

JN241310 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1204 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] With a feeling of isolation, at dawn today Iran withdrew its proposals to the political committee of the 17th ICO foreign ministers conference 1 day before it is scheduled to end.

The head of the Iranian delegation decided to boycott the conference's remaining sessions in protest over what he termed unjust resolutions against Iran.

ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada today confirmed Iran's withdrawal from the conference on the pretext that the political committee is drafting a resolution condemning Tehran for refusing to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 and condemning it for provoking the bloody events in Mecca in 1987 which resulted in the death of approximately 400 people.

It was learned from a source close to the meetings of the political committee that the Iraqi and Iranian sides were involved in a heated argument over the political views, religious beliefs, and ideological trends in both Iraq and Iran.

The source said the Iraqi side based its arguments on the religious books published in Iran after the revolution and on Ayatollah Khomeyni's sayings, which include threats and vows to topple Arab regimes.

The Iraqi side attacked Iran saying: Either Tehran respects the conventions, norms, and laws of international and Islamic organizations as an active member of these organizations or it withdraws into itself, and follows its books and the teachings of its leaders.

The Iraqi delegate cited the Koranic verses which prohibit fighting among Muslims and urge the Islamic community to impose peace on the Muslim belligerent that refuses to submit to the order of the majority.

The source said the general atmosphere of the committee's meeting was one of sympathy with the Iraqi side and this prompted the Iranian side to withdraw its papers and boycott the conference.

The committee stemming from the conference is scheduled to end its discussions this evening and will submit the final recommendations to the ministerial committee on Friday, 25 March for final approval.

Further on Iran's Withdrawal

NC241243 Paris AFP in English 1213 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Amman, March 24 (AFP)—Iran Thursday pulled out of a meeting here of Islamic foreign ministers because of "reactionary" resolutions it said the delegates were debating, Iranian representative Sheikh Mohammad Ali Tashkhiri announced.

"Saudi Arabian money spent at the conference has prompted the resolutions, which have been silent on the crimes of the Iraqi regime," he charged. He characterized the 17th meeting of foreign ministers from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) as "a great puppet show."

"We have decided to boycott the conference's closing session and to leave as soon as possible," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, charging that resolutions on the Gulf war and the Mecca pilgrimage had been "dictated by the reactionary current."

A political committee source at the conference told AFP that Iran had decided to withdraw "all its proposals" early Thursday, saying it could no longer participate in the deliberations.

Iranian officials declared that the conference, which ends Friday, was debating resolutions unfavorable to Iran on the Gulf war and the Moslem "hajj" (pilgrimage) to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Wednesday announced that his country was curtailing the number of pilgrims from each country to Mecca this year.

A Saudi proposal here to limit the number of pilgrims was srongly contested by Iran, conference sources said. [passage omitted]

A report by an Iranian inquiry team on the Mecca, incidents was rejected by the OIC political committee, conference sources said. [passage omitted]

Sheikh Tashkhiri earlier reiterated his country's demands that for the Gulf war to end, delegates must "denounce and castigate the aggressor," a reference to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Moreover, Tehran strongly urged conferees to condemnd Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons against Kurdish villages aloang their common border. Iraqi attacks on Kurdish villages last week killed 5,000 Kurds and injured 5,000 others, Iranian officials have said.

The OIC meetings, under way since Monday, have grouped delegates from 44 countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), representing 705 million Moslems worldwide.

Algeria

Jallud, Libyan Delegation Arrive for Visit

LD191314 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Excerpt] At the level of cooperation between Maghreb countries, a new meeting was held today between Algeria and the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah on the occasion of the visit by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud to our country.

Jallud was welcomed on arrival at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Mohamed Cherif Messadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, and a number of government and state officials. [passage omitted]

Arrival Statement Noted

LD192139 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud this afternoon arrived in Algeria on a working visit within the framework of unionist contacts between the revolutions of the Great Al-Fatih and Al-Fatih of November.

Welcoming Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud at the airport of Houari Boumedienne were Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the member of the FLN Politburo and responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN in Algeria.

Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were Belkacem Nabi, the member of the FLN Central Committee and minister for energy; Faysal Boudraa, the minister of heavy industries; Mohamed Amokrane Cherifi, the minister of commerce; the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the secretary and members of the People's Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria and the Algerian ambassador to Great Jamahiryah.

Major Jallud is accompanied in his visit by a delegation consisting of the secretary of the affairs of people's congresses, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Employment and the president of the Council of Management of the National Oil Company.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud made a statement to the Algerian news agency in which he said "the meetings between the two revolutions is natural and within this concept we have always visits as brothers and revolutionaries. This visit comes within this concept especially as we have been fighting since the meeting of I-n-Amenas for the development of the reality of the region and the realisation of Arab unity whose basis are Algeria and Libya and that this is the main issue imposing itself upon us in Algeria and Libya considering that the Arab nation is going through the most serious threats and challenges.

He asserted that the revolution in Algeria and Libya has role in averting the danger threatening especially that the combatant Arab people in Palestine effected a real revolution and we in Libya were looking for the unknown and this has come from Palestine from this great people who is fighting with nails, stones and teeth and at present being subjected to the most barbarian and savage acts such as buried alive and burning which are very ugly indeed. But regrettably while children are fighting with stones the Arab weapons are in store houses at this bad time when our existence is being threatened.

He added "We in Libya, Algeria and Syria speak the same language and feel the same bitterness and possibly we may fulfill our responsibilities and thinking about a solution to this reality. He made clear that the Arabs are now watching and giving calling the Palestinians for conciliation. In fact this is not appropriate for the Al-Fatih Revolution and Al-Fatih of November.

He said "Hence the talks are going to concentrate on union between Libya and Algeria and the Arab situation and how to safeguard the continuation of the uprising carried out by the Palestinian people and which may realise what Arab armies have failed to achieve.

He declared that we have to endeavour so as this uprising shall continue. We call for opening the borders before guerrilla operations so that struggle from outside complement the struggle from inside and we know this requires commitment amongst the frontline Arab states. But the Arabs may face these commitments as there is no alternative but to leave the Palestinian people alone and the Arab arms remain in store houses or to terrorise the Arab people and repress its revolution.

He asserted that the stone weapon is sharper than missiles.

He added "I am pleased at visiting my country Algeria and meet with my brother militants of the Algerian revolution.

He affirmed that there is no alternative but to shoulder our responsibility and I [as received] say union is will, the fighting is will, and alignment with the masses is a will and these issues cannot be compromised as no compromise can be effected on historical issues and it must be done with awareness, responsibility and objective conditions and I personally, believe that the objective conditions are available between the revolution of November and the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Working Session Held

LD191526 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] This afternoon in Algiers, a working session was held between Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee.

The working session was attended by the brother secretary for people's congresses affairs at the General People's Congress; secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service; chairman of the board of directors of the National Petroleum Company; Brothers Mohamed Abada, (Larabi Zoubidi) and Ahmed Ali Ghazali, members of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee; Brother Belkacem Nabi, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of energy; Brother Mohamed Amokrane Cherifi, minister of commerce; and Brother Faysal Boudraa, minister of heavy industry. The session was also attended by the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau in Algeria.

Bendjedid Receives Jallud

LD191831 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] At the presidential palace in fraternal Algeria today, President Chadli Bendjedid received Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. The meeting was attended by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN, and by Larbi Belkheir, director of the Office of the President.

An expanded meeting was then held at the presidential palace this evening, attended by President Chadli Bendjedid, Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, and Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia. The meeting was also attended by the secretary for people's congresses affairs of the General People's Congress, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service, and the brother chairman of the board of the National Oil Institute.

On the Algerian Arab side, the meeting was attended by Belkheir, director of the Presidential Office; Faysal Boudraa, minister of heavy industries; Belkacem Nabi, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of energy; Mohamed Amokrane Cherifi, minister of commerce, and Algeria's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting touched upon a number of issues related to the implementation of unionist joint programs, within the framework of unionist steps existing between the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria. The meeting also discussed a number of matters related to the current Arab and international situations.

Jallud Speaks on Maghreb Unity

LD192327 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud began a visit to Algeria today. President Chadli Bendjedid granted him an audience. After coming out of the president's office, Jallud said the following about the meeting:

[Begin recording] As I said in my statement at Houari Boumedienne Airport, the meeting of the great 1 September Revolution and the glorious November Revolution is necessitated by the supreme pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation, and is in response to the vanguard role of the two revolutions.

The main issue we discussed with the brother president was that of Arab unity, Arab Maghreb unity, and [word indistinct] unity between Libya and Algeria. I discussed with the brother president the issue of unity between Libya and Algeria, which brings good news to the Arab nation and gives confidence and hope that the Arab peoples in Libya and Algeria are moving toward creating a historic act that will have an enormous effect on the Arab nation and the [word indistinct] Arab Maghreb.

The second issue was that of the uprising, or what has been termed the revolution of the stones. In fact, we feel regret and sorrow that the Arab nation has not been able to provide the support needed for this revolution, the revolution of the stones. We also discussed the issue of playing our part, because, as I said, the Arab weapons are in depots. It is evident that stones are more effective than the weapons and tanks of Arab armies. We are asking for borders to be opened to fedayeen action, so that fedayeen action from outside Palestine would complement the heroic action of Palestinians inside.

We also discussed the question of Algeria's call for a summit conference, and we support the call. A summit conference must be convened. If a summit conference is not convened, we must think about [words indistinct] because the uprising, the revolution of the stones, needs Arab [word indistinct]. Moreover, we discussed the plot against OPEC, which is leading to a deliberate lowering of prices and of the dollar. This is a war waged against us in addition to the political war. We also discussed the possibility of OPEC making concerted efforts to confront the collapse of oil prices. [end recording]

In reply to a question on President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative to build the Arab Maghreb structure and assessing the efforts made in that direction, Jallud said:

[Begin recording] We in Libya believe that overall unity among Arab Maghreb countries is a political will and objective conditions. [as heard] [passage indistinct] However, we and the brother colonel (?support) Brother President Chadli's initiative of developing unity action between Libya and Algeria into four-sided action, to include Tunisia and Mauritania. We trust Brother President Chadli and the Algerian leadership. We are hoping that it would be better if it was possible for unity to be established between four Maghreb countries, than for it to be established just between Libya and Algeria. We have strongly encouraged these sincere, aware, and responsible initiatives of President Chadli.

We have supported these initiatives, and we are about to assess the results of these aware, responsible, and vanguard initiatives of President Chadli and the Algerian leadership. We have supported and strongly backed them. All that Brother President Chadli and the Algerian leadership asked of us was to create the right atmosphere in the Arab Maghreb, and to overcome the differences and unreal problems between Libya and Tunisia. We have implemented all these in order to serve the great unity objective, in implementation of Brother President Chadli's requests. [end recording]

Brahimi Meets Al-Shakshuki

LD211034 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers 21 March (APS)—Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, received at his office yesterday Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Public Services.

The meeting was an opportunity to follow up and bolster the growing cooperation between the two countries in all fields, by setting up new joint economic projects within the framework of the great Maghrebian economic integration.

Energy, Industry Agreements

LD221514 Algiers APS in Arabic 0810 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 22 Mar (APS)—The minutes of two cooperation agreements, one in the field of energy and the other dealing with heavy industry, have been signed between Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Signing for the Algerian side were: Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries; and Faysal Boudraa, minister of heavy industry. Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Services, signed the agreements for the Libyan side.

The first agreement stipulates the setting up of the Al-Maghreb al-Arabi Company for the transportation of natural gas through Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia. A gas pipeline will be laid from Algeria to the Jamahiriyah, through Tunisia, to carry an estimated 90 billion square meters of Algerian gas, with an option for more over the next 25 years.

This tripartite project is considered to be among the largest projects on the road to economic integration among the three Maghreb countries.

The second agreement is related to heavy industry and stipulates the building of a joint complex for aluminium and petroleum coke. This complex will be built in Zuwarah, west of the Jamahiriyah. The agreement also includes the creation of a joint company in the field of petrochemical industry that will undertake the construction of two joint projects in both Algeria and Libya, with the provision of further expansion so as to include the other petrochemical projects in both countries.

Chad

Sudanese Delegation Meets UNIR Officials

AB230954 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] A delegation of top officials of the Sudanese Socialist Party is currently in Ndjamena. The delegation, led by (Mahamat Sekoun), held talks yesterday afternoon with top officials of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR]. No communique was issued at the end of the talks, but it is believed talks centered mainly on the Libyan military presence in Darfur Province.

Libya Seen Preparing To Attack Aozou Strip

Dakar Meeting Said Diversion

AB221023 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Moussa Dago commentary]

[Excerpt] It has been reported that Al-Qadhdhafi will attend the OAU ad hoc meeting in Dakar. Meanwhile, fragments of the former opposition and Libyan troops are in transit again. This is all geared toward one goal: to sow doubt in minds of everyone in Dakar and mislead them regarding the true nature of the Chad-Libya conflict, as Moussa Dago explains.

[Begin recording] Diversionary tactics are indeed once again in full swing concerning the Chad-Libya conflict. At the very moment it was announced that the dog of Tripoli was going to participate in the OAU ad hoc committee summit in Dakar, it was also learned that fragments of the former factions in the Chadian conflict have united, electing as their chairman a certain Goukouni, who has been opportunely resurrected. Of course, it is the Libyan news agency JANA which has been claiming this reconstitution. JANA is staging an act to complete the drama currently being played out in Tripoli: A military invasion, which is to shortly take place in the north, the northwest, or the east.

All this stage-setting is connected with the approach of the Dakar conference. All this could enable Al-Qadhdhafi to go to the Senegalese capital and give the impression of innocence, and to once more put forward Chadian puppets and thus maintain the status quo in the occupied Aozou Strip. Consequently, it is wise to avoid any optimism [word indistinct] about the Dakar summit. Al-Qadhdhafi no longer has any convincing plan that would demonstrate his good faith to the (?persons invited) to this summit.

On the contrary, at this very moment, a large movement of troops is being carried out in southern Libya, and spectacular defensive measures are being taken by the Libyan Army. Major fortification and defense works have just been completed: sand walls, [words indistinct] barriers, mine fields, solar-powered batteries, around the Air Force bases of Toobou, Taanoa, and Matan al-Sarra. On the bases that are deeper inside Libyan territory, notably those of (Amzakrom,) (Kattah,) and (Koufra), squadrons of fighter planes and helicopters have been reconstituted and even reinforced. In the east, more precisely in the Darfur Region of Sudan, soldiers of the Libyan Army and of the Islamic Legion are moving southwards toward the Chadian border. In fact, everything is ready, as some observers note, for a massive Libyan attack on Chad.

On the political level, the demon of Tripoli has already indirectly declared his intentions. Is not his much talked about speech in Annaba and (Saghie) in Tunisia on the uselessness of borders nothing more than a simple reassertion of what he stated 15 years ago in Chad concerning the annexation of the Aozou region? This speech, addressed to his Algerian and Tunisian colleagues, called on them not only to approve his erroneous thesis on the notion of borders, but also to approve its implementation in violating by force of arms the border that separates Libya from Chad. Under these conditions, nothing should be expected of the Libyan participation at the Dakar meeting. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Libyan Planes Overfly Region

AB231915 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 23 (AFP)—Chad complained Wednesday [23 March] of "repeated agressive overflights by Libyan warplanes" of its territory, warning in a statement issued by the Chadian Embassy here of a "forthcoming Libyan offensive." The Libyan flights were penetrating "deeper and deeper" into Chad "in violation of the ceasefire of September 11, 1987", the statement said.

On Sunday and Monday, Libyan MiG fighters were sighted over Ounianga Kebir, in northeastern Chad, and over Fada, 200 kilometres (120 miles) further south, the Chadian statement said. Two fighters and an observation aircraft overflew the locality of Bardai, in the Tibesti region, early Wednesday, it added. "These repeated overflights, together with the 20,000 Libyan troops and about 8,000 armoured vehicles massed in the north of Chad, are the signs of a forthcoming Libyan offensive", the statement said. Tripoli's statement Sunday concerning the creation of a "new so-called grouping of Chadian opposition figures led by (former Chadian President) Goukouni Oueddei is a smokescreen to obscure these preparations and maintain the fiction of an inter-Chadian conflict", the embassy statement concluded.

Ndjamena and Tripoli are in dispute over the Aozou Strip in northern Chad, claimed by Libya under the terms of a 1935 treaty between France and Italy, the former colonial powers. Savage fighting in the region concluded last September with an Organization of African Unity-sponsored ceasefire.

Offensive 'Fixed' for 8 April

AB231947 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] As we were saying yesterday, the bloody Tripoli regime is preparing to launch a large-scale offensive against our country. The date fixed for this operation is 8 April 1988. As a prelude to this attack, today two fighter bombers and a reconnaissance plane overflew Bardai at 0900 [0800 GMT].

In spite of the defeat inflicted on his army, Al-Qadhdhafi has not given up; he persists in his hegemonistic designs and his totalitarian desire to annex Chad. This does not surprise anybody; we know that the only language that the fool of Sidra understands is that of force and weapons. He will find in front of him the determination of the people and the bravery of their Army, the courage and patriotic drive of the Chadian people to take up the challenge.

A few weeks before the OAU ad hoc committee meeting, the Tripoli fascist wants to sow confusion among the international public by creating an imaginary opposition and trying to renew hostilities. These machinations will not work. The Chadian people will never be caught unprepared, because the Chadian people are always vigilant, mobilized, and ready for any eventuality. If Al-Qadhdhafi attacks, we will counter him with a strong, crushing riposte.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Security, Economic Program

NC230909 Cairo MENA in English 0720 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 23 (MENA)—At a meeting with Tanta University students and professors held at the police academy yesterday, President Husni Mubarak said the enforcement of the emergency law was intended for the protection of the people and not for the protection of an individual or a ruler, and that he was not prepared to burden the people beyond their capacity and "we do not accept any pressures in our economic reform", report AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM in their banner headlines and leading front-page stories.

President Mubarak said the enforcement of the emergency law was intended for the protection of the people and not for the protection of an individual or a ruler, and pointed out that the government had not confiscated a single newspaper or banned a word published in the press.

"We must not turn freedom into anarchy. The freedom we are living in is unique to Egypt and we must not use it to impair the stability of society, its security and national unity", he said.

The president pointed out during the meeting that lasted for two hours that all the efforts all the institutions of the state were making were aimed at ensuring the future of Egypt's youth. Egypt, he said, was going through a difficult economic stage, and its leading status in the area impelled the nations of the world to give it support, AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR said.

The meeting was devoted to a frank tour d'horizon in which youths put forward their ideas in complete frankness, and the president said he was not prepared to accept anything beyond what the people could endure. Egypt's economic reform, he said, was proceeding in steady steps according to Egypt's real capacity and circumstances and did not yield to any pressure from any party.

"All the decisions made are from a patriotic and Egyptian standpoint and the interests of Egypt and its people are above everything else and above any pressure", he said.

President Mubarak urged the government to inform the masses of the people of everything and to explain the facts to them because that would help all to endure any shortages that might crop up in any commodity or service, the papers added.

On the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands, President Mubarak said Egypt was the first country to support the uprising and gave it the most support since it broke out. He said his trip to the United States aimed mainly at supporting the uprising, the papers said. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Discusses International Peace Conference

NC221354 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that Palestinian representation in an international conference for peace does not constitute a problem. He added that the Arabs agree on this.

If the major obstacle to the international conference—which is the intransigence of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud bloc's opposition to the conference—is overcome, then it would not be difficult to reach an agreement on Palestinian representation, he stated.

Dr al-Baz explained that the question of Palestinian representation is a matter of procedure. The Arabs agree, he went on, that the basis for any negotiations are Resolutions 242 and 338, plus a clause on the resolution of the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, so as to guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Speaking to correspondents upon his return from Amman today, the Egyptian official added that it is accepted that there can be no peace in the region while the occupation of territories continues. He stressed that Israel must accept the principle of land for peace. He also emphasized that Israel has no right to object to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination.

Asked about the PLO's insistence on participating in the international peace conference with an independent delegation, Dr al-Baz said that the Arab parties agree on the need to address an invitation to the PLO, and this is what matters.

In response to a question on whether this means a return to the formula of a unified Arab delegation, Dr al-Baz said:

Not necessarily. We must find the most suitable formula to enable the Arabs to express their positions forcefully and to obtain sufficient international support from all the parties that will take part in the conference. In this way we may eventually secure Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and establish peace on the basis of respect for the rights of all parties, and not on the basis of Israel's retention of any piece of Arab land.

Dr al-Baz was asked whether he had given President Mubarak a response to his excellency's oral message to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. He replied that he had. Dr al-Baz pointed out that Egypt and Jordan are coordinating positions with the PLO, noting that Jordan is also coordinating with Syria.

He said that negotiations within the framework of an international conference will be hard and extremely complex and difficult. He affirmed that the Arabs must be prepared and must ensure that they stand on solid ground.

In his statement, Al-Baz said that King Husayn of Jordan has invited PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan. 'Arafat has accepted the invitation and negotiations are under way between Jordan and the PLO to arrange a date for the visit, Al-Baz added.

Asked whether U.S. envoy Philip Habib will visit Syria during his current tour, Al-Baz said that the United States assigns its envoys to the various countries of the region, and that Richard Murphy is the one who holds contacts with the Syrian Government on behalf of the U.S. Government.

In reply to another question, Al-Baz discounted the possibility that an international conference might be suspended in the event Israel disapproves of the Palestinian representation. He said that all parties agree that the PLO is an indispensable party to the negotiations. This is natural, because no Arab state is authorized to speak on behalf of the Palestinians, and everyone recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Baz stated that the purpose of Philip Habib's recent visit to Cairo was to brief President Mubarak on the outcome of the talks which the U.S. Administration held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and on the proposals the United States intends to submit in the weeks to come.

Regarding U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement on the nonimposition of peace on Israel, Al-Baz said:

We have never received the impression that the United States supports Shamir's stand. It is clear that the U.S. stand favors the convening of an international conference. It is natural for the United States to state that the international conference will not impose a solution or that it will not oppose a solution agreed upon by the parties concerned. The United States is not alone in this view; we have never said that the conference will impose a solution.

Al-Baz said that to accept that the international conference will not impose a solution is not tantamount to submitting to the Israeli stand, but is a clarification of something agreed upon among the parties. The conference provides an opportunity for negotiations. It cannot make any progress except within the confines accepted by the parties.

Al-Baz also stressed that the current aim of the United States is to convene an international peace conference in April. If any U.S. hesitation occurs, the other parties may hesitate in giving an answer, and Israel will thus be able to continue its evasive tactics.

Dr al-Baz expressed Egypt's support for the U.S. efforts to convene an international conference in April, especially in view of the continuation of events in the occupied territories, which constitutes a burden on the international community.

'Source' Denounces Threats to Saudi Missiles

NC232001 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—An official source has stated that Egypt denounces the recent threats by Israeli officials to launch an offensive against missile sites in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Egypt views these statements as a violation of international law and norms and a return to the concepts of war, aggression, and threats to use force, at a time when the peace-loving forces in the whole world are seeking to activate the process of establishing a comprehensive peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors.

On this occasion, Egypt repeats what it has previously declared: It will consider any attack on the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as aggression against itself that must be deterred and repulsed with all firmness and force. The aggressive party must bear the responsibility for such aggression and blatant violation of law and the spirit of peace.

Jordanian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

NC230705 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2221 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of Jordan's House of Representatives, arrived in Cairo tonight at the head of a delegation consisting of 16 House members. During his week-long visit to Egypt, Al-Fayiz will meet with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and several other senior officials.

Upon his arrival, Al-Fayiz made a statement in which he paid tribute to the role that Egypt is playing in the Arab and international arenas in the service of Arab interests, with regard to the international peace conference, the Iraq-Iran war, and the continued support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, who met Al-Fayiz at the airport, said that the visit will allow an exchange of opinion on matters of common concern to both countries, as well as to the Arab people. [passage omitted]

Al-Fayiz Praises Missile Stand

NC241150 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—'Akif al-Fayiz, Jordanian speaker of the House of Representatives, has expressed his happiness with the statement issued yesterday by an Egyptian responsible source on Israel's threat to strike at missile sites in Saudi territory.

Speaking to reporters following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Al-Fayiz said the position of both Egypt and Jordan toward such threats is the same, noting that a statement is expected to be issued by the ICO ministerial meeting, now in progress in Amman, on these threats.

Asked about the meeting he and his accompanying delegation held with President Mubarak today, Al-Fayiz said the discussion had dealt with the current Arab situation and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz'

initiative on the Palestinian issue. He added that President Mubarak had briefed the Jordanian delegation on the latest developments on the Arab and international levels.

Security Organs Accused in Dissidents Case

PM221109 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Mar 88 p 4

[Ahmad al-Kinani article: "New Evidence on U.S. Involvement in Egypt's Revolution Case"]

[Excerpts] It is now 3 weeks since the disclosure of the U.S. Embassy's involvement in the Egypt's Revolution case. A great deal has been said concerning its questioning of the third person accused. The government no longer has any pretexts in this regard, nor is there any excuse for silence. The newspaper MAYU, in last week's edition, has acknowledged the despicable U.S. role.

This unjustified and incomprehensible government silence points up the government's total inability to protect the security of its citizens inside the country. There is not the least doubt that the government's posture produces astonishment and raises questions. How is this government, vicious with its own people, so gentle, pliable, and soft with the Americans? How is this government so mute with this deadening silence?

The government is urged to break the silence and to adopt a stand against the U.S. Embassy, whose role did not stop at questioning the third person accused. New evidence has come to light through investigations to show that it slipped false and misleading information to the Egyptian security organs via the third accused, Ahmad 'Isam, in order to drive a wedge between Egypt and its Arab neighbors, to harm the country's higher interests, and to pressure the investigating circles into implicating the late President 'Abd al-Nasir's children in the case, according to the documents. [passage omitted]

In this instance, we do not specifically mean Libya; what is happening to it could happen to any other Arab state. We are talking about the stupidity shown in dealing with such a dangerous issue, whose instigators within the security organs know that it was foisted on them by the U.S. Embassy. Furthermore, the third accused, on whom the security organs have depended as a source of information, was brainwashed in the embassy into saying such things.

He also had a direct interest in repeating them, because of promises he received from the Americans as the chief witness. So the security organs ought to have investigated the truth before vouching for this information in their investigation sessions with the attorney, thus sparing the last remaining part of Egypt's lukewarm relations with one of its Arab neighbors.

Had the security men looked into the information given to them by Ahmad 'Isam, they would have been able to uncover the contradictions in his statements, such as his comments concerning this point in particular—a fact confirmed on more than one occasion in the attorney's investigations.

Naturally, this causes us to point the accusing finger at the Egyptian security organs, which have been penetrated from within to the benefit of the Americans, who have an opportunity in this case to fulfill their long-standing and ongoing aims with regard to Egypt and Libya—which has made some of them repeat the same words as the U.S. Embassy. [passage omitted]

Libya To Allow Citizens To Visit Egypt

NC241015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—The Libyan authorities have issued several decisions which allow Libyan citizens to travel to Egypt for the first time since 1975.

These decisions also remove Egypt's name from the list of countries to which travel is banned. Libyan passports are valid for travel to all countries in the world except occupied Palestine, Egypt, and South Africa.

The Egyptian weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR says in its Friday issue that Staff Colonel 'Abd al-Fattah Yunis Farah, commander of the Eastern Military Area and engineer of the Libyan-Egyptian relations [as received], informed the Egyptian press delegation from the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Peoples, the first to visit Banghazi, of this decision before the delegation left Banghazi for Athens en route to Cairo, after an 11-day visit to Libya.

AL-MUSAWWAR quotes 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Zintani, deputy chairman of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, as having said that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi recently sent a special envoy to Egypt to extend Libya's gratitude to President Husni Mubarak for the good treatment accorded the Libyan pilots who were forced to land in Egypt, as well as for returning the Libyan planes.

AL-MUSAWWAR says that the delegation, which was led by Muhammad Hasan al-Barghathi, chief editor of AL-THAQAFAH AL-'ARABIYAH magazine, was told that the Libyan authorities had agreed to let a delegation of Libyan writers attend the seminar of Afro-Asian writers, which began in Cairo today.

Staff Colonel 'Abd al-Fattah Yunis told the delegation that about 36 Egyptian prisoners have been released from Libyan prisons, including 3 prisoners whose release President Mubarak had requested by name. He added that these prisoners were returned to Egypt aboard a special military plane, except for one prisoner, who is still in Libya.

Lawyers Union Urges Jihad Against Israel

PM231621 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Borders Urged Open for Jihad Against Israel"]

[Text] The Islamic conference organized last Tuesday evening by the Lawyers Union demanded that the Egyptian Government open the borders for young men to launch a jihad against Israel to liberate Palestine.

The conference urged that relations with Israel be severed, the Israeli ambassador expelled, and the 27th Rajab of every year declared "Islamic Palestine Day."

The Lawyers Union convened an expanded popular conference, which was attended by Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and Shaykh Salamah Hafiz [religious figures] and Lawyers Union member 'Adil 'Id, in addition to a number of university youth leaders.

Papers Cited on Peace Efforts, Elections

NC210732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH warn all parties in the Middle East against a possible freezing of the efforts to achieve peace in the area, especially as election maneuvers in both Israel and the United States increase.

In their editions to be published tomorrow, Monday, the two papers order all parties to the conflict in the Middle East to frankly and clearly proclaim their stands on the ongoing efforts, particularly by the United States, to establish peace in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH compares the Egyptian and Israeli stands on the current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. It lauds Egypt's stand and its desire to provide an opportunity for the ongoing efforts to continue the peace process in the region. It says that this stand has earned the world's appreciation. It also reflects on the results of the visit by U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who described his discussions with President Mubarak as extraordinarily good.

AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the Israeli stand on the peace efforts. Referring to Yitzhaq Shamir's maneuvers, it says that his statements in the United States are incompatible with his government's repressive actions in the occupied territory, the escalation of the campaign of haphazard arrests and curfews, and the proclamation of the Arab territories as military zones isolated from the world. It says that the Israeli officials' statements confirm that from their perspective, they think that capitulation, coercion, and the continuation of the occupation will bring peace.

AL-AHRAM describes the U.S. decision to resume the U.S. envoys' shuttle tours in the Middle East as a demonstrative move which does not foretell any actual change in the situation.

The paper refers to the U.S. declaration, made after Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir's recent discussions in Washington, to the effect that it totally rejects any attempts to divide the U.S. plan. It says that this declaration is directed to all parties involved in the Middle East dispute which have not clearly stated their stand on the U.S. initiative.

AL-AHRAM expresses its fear that this conduct falls within the framework of the election maneuvers which are being energetically staged in both Israel and the United States. The paper warns that this state of affairs is an indication that the entire exercise will be frozen until a time when it would be entirely too difficult to resume it in any way, while the Israeli and U.S. election campaigns intensify.

AL-AHRAM Assails Israeli 'Savagery'

JN212147 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Mar 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Tragedy of an Army"]

[Text] Despite an Israeli-imposed news blackout in the occupied land, news reports filter out detailing acts of extreme savagery committed by Israeli forces against innocent, defenseless Palestinians. Bearing the brunt of the brutality is the younger segment of the population. They are either picked up randomly or hauled off from their homes to torture centers, where they have their bones broken and in many cases suffer irreparable damage. Even the hospitals where the wounded Palestinian children are treated are not spared the bullets and gas cannisters of the Israeli soldiers.

Although little leaks out about the savage, repressive practices, a good many Israelis are speaking out. Quite aside from civilian expressions of opposition, mostly by the Peace Now Movement, rumblings are also being heard within the ranks of the military—regulars and reservists alike. A thousand servicemen, including 99 top officers, signed a letter to Prime Minister Shamir urging that he opt for peace instead of clinging to occupation.

Other senior Israeli officers who took part in the October war, and survived it, told their children that in the future they will work to secure peace for them. How would these soldiers like it when they see Israeli troops inflicting grisly forms of torture on children of others?!

A large sector of the Israelis have come to view events in the occupied land as a true "war"—the 8th since Israel was founded. But they also view it as posing the greatest threat to the Israeli entity itself. Whereas previous wars were an occasion for the Israelis to present a solid, united

front against the foreign "enemy," the "new" war has served to split not only the country's general public but the military establishment as well.

Reported insubordination within some Israeli army units, coupled with reservists' calls for putting an end to atrocities and occupation, are ominous signs, as these make up the backbone of the self-styled Defense Forces. More ominous is the fact that these units doing the dirty work belong to the infantry, who are "repudiated" by armor corps soldiers for having violated the philosophical, religious principle of the "purity of arms," which must be used only in cases of real combat against real armies!

Such were the portents that were to crack occupation armies throughout history, and hasten their ruin!

Editorial Labels Shamir 'Master of Lies'

NC230826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper denounces attempts by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to distract attention from his embarrassment in Washington by launching a series of lies about Egypt and accusing it, along with other countries, of opening fire on Palestinian demonstrators. The paper describes Shamir as a "master of lies."

In its editorial today, the paper notes that Shamir claimed once before that the Egyptian authorities opened fire against Palestinians during demonstrations in Rafah. Egypt strongly refuted this false allegation, which was made by Shamir when he was embarrassed both at home and abroad by the sanguinary atrocities committed by his troops against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. Sadly enough, the paper says, these atrocities are still going on in a dramatic manner. Yet, to repeat these lies shamelessly and boldly to American public opinion during his visit to Washington is stooping too low, from mere error to sin. The paper desribes Shamir's behavior as "foolish impudence" and a provocation which necessitates deterrence.

AL-AHRAM adds that Shamir regrettably went to Washington with a single scheme in mind: to destroy peace efforts and ruin all opportunities to agree on the internationally accepted minimum of understanding through an international conference, and to prepare for direct negotiations without interference or hegemony.

Shamir is free to take a personal view, to promote it as he sees fit, and to put forward what he perceives as right, as long as he does not hurt anyone or distort other points of view. Yet, the paper adds, he insists on practicing his detestable hobby of blaming his faults and political failures on others, thinking that such shameful behavior would help to extricate him from the awkward position he has got himself into. He believes, the paper says, that this loathsome approach may make the Arabs' image as distorted as his own, or drive a wedge into their current unification efforts or their collective peace-oriented efforts, which are noted by the whole world.

The paper says that although some people in the distant American world who still worship Israel—whether sincerely or for the sake of appearances—may fall for Shamir's irrational lies, these lies cannot wipe out Shamir's painful reality. His reality, the paper concludes, is so gloomy and cruel that it prompts him to shut out the entire occupied territories from the eyes of the world, so that they may not see the vicious crimes committed by the troops he sent on a barbaric mission against unarmed innocent people, who only demand the right to exist on their own land.

Libya

Saudi Acquisition of Missiles Supported

LD232304 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued a statement about the reports from international news agencies about Saudi Arabia's acquisition of missiles from the PRC and the statement issued by office director of the Zionist terrorist Shamir concerning this matter. The statement included:

International news agencies said that Saudi Arabia has obtained missiles from the PRC. Following these reports, the office director of Zionist Shamir, prime minister of the enemy, made a statement in which he considered the Saudi acquisition of such armaments a threat to the security of the Zionists and said they will not remain silent on this. The U.S. State Department's official spokesman said that the Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles will not help in achieving peace and stability in the region.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, as it follows up this matter, gives the following collection of objective facts:

First, the Arab nation's national security is an indivisible fact, and in confronting the Zionist-U.S. aggression all Arabs become the same: the revolutionary and the moderate, the pan-Arab and the regional supporters.

Second, the Zionists and their U.S. allies are imposing an absolute objection on the future of the Arab nation. The Arabs are prohibited from owning nuclear energy or obtaining weapons that could enable them to defend themselves and protect their security, while the enemy, backed by the United States, has the full right to toy with the destiny of the region and its peoples; as if the stability of the region and the achievement of peace in it is threatened by arming the Arabs but is consolidated by their enemy's acquisition of nuclear bombs and of the most destructive and advanced weapons.

Thirdly, whether or not the United States is forced to choose between the Arabs, with their various attitudes, and their enemy, they are completely biased and without any hesitation toward the Arabs' enemy. Understanding this fact makes us wonder about the benefit of preserving and continuing friendly and cooperative relations with the United States, and about the benefit of calls for trying to neutralize it, as it is basically and by nature biased toward the Zionist enemy.

Fourth, in the face of the U.S.-Zionist threat, the cause of Arab unity comes before Arabs as the only means of preserving their existence, which is threatened by the U.S. and Israeli ambitions. It is the means to stress that the Arab nation was created to stay, and that it must overcome its weaknesses and face up to the imperialist and Zionist challenge.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in stressing these facts, condemns the Zionist threats against Saudi Arabia and the collusion of the U.S. Administration with them, and calls on Arabs, as those who claim to be their friends are exposed, to achieve their pan-Arab unity in order to face up to the challenges that threaten their existence.

UN Representative Addresses General Assembly
LD221620 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] New York, 22 Mar, (JANA)—The Great Jamahiriyah has stressed that the decision of the U.S. Administration to close the PLO offices at the United Nations constitutes a flagrant violation of the treaty signed between the United States and the United Nations and a violation of international norms, principles, and laws.

In his address yesterday evening at the UN General Assembly, which is debating the U.S. decision, the Great Jamahiriyah's UN representative said he wondered about the fate of the United Nations, given the clear U.S. attitude, and whether it is still possible for this organization to remain in the United States after this flagrant violation of the simplest of its principles. He called on peace-loving countries to seriously and urgently discuss this question.

He said that the Security Council, by the illogical and persistent use of the veto, is prevented from adopting any resolution to deter the aggressor, and to pressure the Zionist and racial regimes to halt their occupation and aggression. Today, the same action is being taken to diminish the role of the General Assembly and paralyze the will of its members by closing the office of an observer member. Despite the efforts of the secretary general, the situation has not improved, but has become more serious.

The representative of the Great Jamahiriyah indicated that the U.S. Administration's decision to close the PLO office and not abide by the UN Headquarters agreement makes us wonder again about the fate of that agreement and its worthiness. The state that signed it has clearly affirmed through its messages to the secretary general that it does not attach any importance to these commitments, and that it will continue to violate the UN headquarters agreement. Talking about it has consequently become pointless. This new situation, which is directed at the United Nations as a whole and at security and peace in the world, needs to be examined....

He added that the superpowers abandon their commitments and resort to force and the law of the jungle in their international relations. We have seen in recent years major events that confirm this. We have seen state terrorism practiced through attacks against small towns and villages with hundreds of human beings killed for obvious political reasons. Unfortunately, the charter and its Article 51 are misinterpreted to justify aggression.

We have seen the sovereignty of small countries violated, and these countries occupied by superpowers that do not abide by any international responsibility. We have even seen acts of state terroism, the highjacking of planes, and the abduction of individuals carried out by a superpower in the form of obvious terorist acts while under the guise of fighting terrosim...

We have seen unlawful and immoral interpretations of international laws. Rebellious movements in Central America and Angola are being supported under the pretext of helping liberation movements. This occurs while liberation movements are being attacked, and racist and Zionist forces and elements supported in southern Africa and Palestine to violate the peoples' sovereignty, occupy more territories, and carry out mass genocide.

He said that the issue has been dealt with from the legal angle and there is no need to repeat this, even though we have. The issue is primarily a political one; it is mainly directed at the Palestinian people, who are being annihilated in a persistent way in occupied Palestine by Zionist gangs, under whose direct pressure the U.S. decision was made in order to end the Palestinian political issue too...

The Great Jamahiriyah's UN representative, in his speech to the UN General Assembly, said that the U.S. decision to close the PLO office is aimed at, in addition to the PLO and the Palestinian people, the United Nations as a whole. This will be the beginning of the end of this organization, which is regarded by the world community as the only sanctuary for the realization of peace, security, prosperity, and justice for people. In fact, this measure is nothing but a new and serious link in the chain of scorn and nonadherence to international charters by the U.S. Administration.

The refusal to abide by the UN resolutions and the violation of its charter by a superpower that has special responsibilities is a highly critical matter. He pointed out

that the UN headquarters agreement is no longer valid or respected. We have to think of the destiny of this international organization, and of another appropriate location for it if we want to preserve it. Any decision we issue will not be worth the paper it is printed on if it is not respected by the host country.

The Libyan delegate to the United Nations said it is without a doubt regrettable that the United States, which led a revolution for its unity and which is allegedly based on law and not individuals, disregards international agreements. He emphasized that the motivation behind this is international Zionism, which can affect a great weight on U.S. decisions. The United States, being a superpower, has commitments to the United Nations and to the international community. It cannot meet these commitments as long as it is, itself, a victim of continuous Zionist blackmail. Consequently, our common responsibility is to make the United States abide by international agreements and the UN headquarters' agreement, and to maintain a positive role in respecting international law.

Cooperation Talks Held With Ghanaian Delegation

LD221540 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In the office of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the Libyan Arab-Ghanaian talks started yesterday aiming at furthering the bilateral relations and planning a long-term programme for economic and social cooperation, apart from activating joint projects.

Participating in these talks were the secretary of the People's Committee for Treasury, a number of technicians and experts of the above bureau, the treasury, education, oil, information culture, committees, apart from universities. [as received]

The treasury secretary has stressed that Great Jamahiriyah has a keen interest in strengthening its relations with African states, stemming from the importance of making a joint cooperation achieving the common interest.

Great Al-Jamahiriyah, he adds, will continue this course despite the imperialist machinations aiming at deflecting it from it.

It will continue its support to African countries and liberation movements to confront world imperialism which robs Africa of its resources and wealth.

He welcomes the Ghanaian delegation stressing to promote the bilateral relations to achieve the common interests of the 2 friendly peoples.

Meanwhile, the Ghanaian secretary for treasury says that his country is prepared to further the bilateral relations and highly appreciates the support given by the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah to its revolution.

It sees in the leader of the revolution a free and revolutionary african who faces imperialism to achieve the happiness of the Africans.

With the support of Great Al-Jamahiriyah, the Ghanaian people has been enabled to face up to all imperialist schemes.

These schemes will also make the Libyan Arab people more resolved to buttress up the freedom of man everywhere.

Ways for furthering the bilateral relations have been discussed.

A number of technical committees have been set up to draw up the technical formula for this cooperation apart from a programme to back the joint firms and projects for the common good.

These committees started their sessions yesterday afternoon in the office of the Foreign Liaison Bureau.

Morocco

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Concludes Official Visit

LD232141 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The official visit of Ahmad Al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, to our country ended today. The Sudanese chairman left here this morning on a train bound for Casablanca where the Sudanese guest will start a private visit. He was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, the members of the Sudanese delegation, and Minister of Transportation Mohamed Bouamoud. [passage omitted]

It is worth recalling that the visit of the Sudanese State Council chairman was marked by the series of talks he held with His Majesty King Hassan II, and the dinner banquet hosted by the noble monarch in honor of Morocco's guest. During this banquet, the two leaders made speeches in which they stressed the deeply rooted bonds existing betwenen Morocco and Sudan, and the excellent relations of cooperation between them throughout the ages. In addition, they also stressed the historical and constant role played by both countries in working for the commitment to the Islamic shari'a and for the aspirations of the Arabs and their dignity.

The Sudanese leader's visit to our country was crowned by the official ceremony held at the Marrakech Municipality Hall under the cochairmanship of His Majesty

King Hassan II and the Sudanese guest, during which Ahmad al-Mirghani was granted the honorary citizenship of the city of Marrakech. [passage omitted]

Laraki, Ministers Meet With FRG's Bangemann

LD231354 Hamburg DPA in German 1236 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Rabat (DPA)—Federal Economics Minister Martin Bangemann today met with members of the Moroccan Government for an exchange of opinions on bilateral economic relaitons and Morocco's links with the EEC. Bangemann spoke with Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki; the ministers of economics, finance, and energy; and Mohamed Seqat, the state secretary for EEC relations.

Tomorrow Bangemann is to fly to Marrakech for an audience with King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

Libyan Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD221309 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Rabat, March 22, (MAP)—Libyan Secretary (minister) of the Committee for the Social Security Fund Ibrahim Qaydar left here Monday at the end of a visit to Morocco where he attended the African conference on family and signed an agreement between Morocco and Libya on social welfare.

Upon departure Qaydar told the press the African conference on family achieved good results and had been well organized. He added he had had talks with Moroccan officials which aimed at giving a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in social welfare.

He also said he partook in the works of the Moroccan-Libyan joint commission which worked out an appendix to the accord on social welfare between the two countries.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi, Delegation Return From Djibouti

JN231321 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Mar 23 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the accompanying delegation returned here Tuesday night from Djibouti where he lead the Sudan's delegation to participate in the summit meetings of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Combating Drought and Desertification [IGADD] which held there on March 21-22.

Al-Mahdi in a press statement upon his arrival at Khartoum Airport said he had met with the Ethiopian Leader Mengistu Haile Mariam at the sidelines of summit and discussed with him bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Outlines Security Policies

PM211543 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Mar 88 p 11

[Interview with Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister, interior minister, and deputy secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party, by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Hisham] Some people claim you are an obstacle preventing agreement between the two parties in the ruling coalition in Sudan. How true is this charge?

[Al-Husayn] I have not differed with the prime minister, but there are things about which one cannot speak out openly. Anyway, no member of Al-Ummah or any other party can speak of any particular dispute within the government.

[Hisham] Who called for your resignation after the assassination of [Iraqi opposition figure] Mahdi al-Hakim?

[Al-Husayn] Nobody can ask me to resign except the party of which I am a member, the Democratic Unionist Party, and that has not happened.

[Hisham] Your sharp differences with the Al-Ummah Party have reached the Constituent Assembly, particularly since the Al-Hakim incident, when Al-Ummah deputy 'Abd al-Rahman Farah submitted a memorandum against you.

[Al-Husayn] 'Abd al-Rahman Farah and the Farah family proceed on grounds which have nothing to do with the public interest or party work. They act on personal grounds, and they appear to be driven by other circles.

[Hisham] What circles?

[Al-Husayn] I do not want to indulge in altercations, but I can confirm that the Interior Ministry is taking a line which may not please many foreign circles. Some of the Interior Ministry measures are not conspicuous and are not apparent to all the people. We are taking measures in the interest of Sudan—measures which may not please certain Sudanese individuals and, sometimes, foreign states.

[Hisham] As interior minister, why did you not participate in the Darfur security conference on protecting the city against armed pillage?

[Al-Husayn] It would be better if such conferences were sponsored by the Interior Ministry, not others. I was notified of the conference only by way of an invitation to attend.

The Darfur security conference was arranged in isolation from the Interior Ministry, and that is why I did not participate in it.

[Hisham] Do you not think the phenomenon of the spread of arms licensing carries security risks for the Sudanese people?

[Al-Husayn] There are no risks in arms licensing, because the licensed arms are usually small pistols or shotguns which can be purchased in stores in many states. The real causes of dangers, of deteriorating security, and of the spread of arms, are in actual fact foreign.

Sudan has no connection with and no interest in them. They are a result of the Chad conflict being carried into Sudan. The spread of arms and armed pillage in some Sudanese areas are partially the result of that conflict.

[Hisham] Yet some information confirms the presence of certain elements which act against the country's interests.

[Al-Husayn] I do not believe that any danger resulting from these limited activities could pose a threat to the democratic system. The real dangers stem from the government's inability to provide for the public's essential needs and its failure to give the people's problems its full attention, allowing peripheral issues to dominate fundamental and basic matters.

[Hisham] Is there a link between the closure of foreign cultural centers in Khartoum and the fear of security developments or disturbances?

[Al-Husayn] One of the problems the Interior Ministry is facing but that the people are unaware of is the fact that many people exploit the democratic atmosphere in Sudan, and exploit the Sudanese people's tolerance and good nature to serve certain security objectives. To prevent such practices we have decided not to permit any foreign state to open any cultural center of any kind in Sudan, because we will never allow ideological conflicts to find their way to our country.

We are now suffering because the armed conflict has been carried into western Sudan, but we will never allow the export of ideological conflicts. That is why, to protect the Sudanese people, the Interior Ministry has decided not to allow the opening of any cultural centers, and not to permit any side engaged in ideological activity to form friendship societies.

We have asked the responsible authority that has recently licensed a certain friendship society to withdraw the license immediately; otherwise, the ministry will intervene and withdraw that license.

[Hisham] What is the outcome of the investigation into the Al-Hakim case?

[Al-Husayn] The investigations are still in progress and therefore we cannot talk about the case.

[Hisham] Some circles have tried to accuse others of fabricating the incident. What is your opinion?

[Al-Husayn] We will not allow any side to undermine Sudan's relations with friendly and fraternal states. Sudanese law will take its course. Nobody can change the course of justice.

Armed Forces Operations Against Rebels Reported

JN231552 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 mar (SUNA)—The Armed Forces General Command announced here today that the Armed Forces have continued to search the Al-Nasir area, have brought the situation there under control, crossed the Sobate River, and searched the surrounding areas. They found the bodies of 250 rebels killed during the Armed Forces' bombardment of rebel positions.

The Armed Forces General Command added that the Armed Forces seized 8,400 Gernov [name as received] cannon rounds, and 60 artillery shells for guns of various calibers. While clearling the area, the Armed Forces clashed with some pockets of rebel resistance, killing 45 rebels, seizing 15 rifles, 1 RPG gun, and artilery ammunition. During the operation, two army personnel were martyred and eight others were wounded.

The Armed Forces General Command went on to say that the Armed Forces carried out operations in Equatoria region, attacked rebel concentrations, and chased them away. They cleared the area surroudning Kajo Kaji. While enroute to this area, they clashed with a group of rebels, killing and wounding a number of them. They also seized a number of Kalashnikov rifles and quantities of ammuniton.

In (Madri) area. the Armed Forces launched an atack on Baku camp and destroyed it entirely, killing 19 outlaws. The rest of the rebels in the camp fled the scene. The Armed Forces seized 30 Kalashnikov rifles and Garnov cannon ammunition. No losses were sustained in the Armed Forces' ranks in the last two operations.

Large Numbers of SPLA Surrender

JN231607 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA)—A military source has said that large numbers of personnel affiliated with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] forces have surrendered in various places of military operations following the overwhelming victories scored by the people's Armed Forces.

The source added that Captain Kur Akulding [name as received] surrendered to the people's Armed Forces in Agilhok area in Upper Nile at the end of last week. Dawmlik [name as received] also surrendered in Malawal area. Sources reported that Captain Kur said

that he rejoined the ranks of the people's Armed Forces after he reached a strong conviction regarding the inability of the Garang movement to defeat the people's Armed Forces. This was also after he became convinced of the impossibility for this movement to achieve its objectives in any way other than that of negotiations.

He added that tribal disputes and differences are raging among the military commanders of the SPLA in the SPLA camps. He went on to say that this prompts large numbers of SPLA personnel to look for a way out.

SPLA Cautions Assembly Against Al-Mahdi Program
EA232156 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and Chief Of Staff, Commander William Nyon Bany, in a statement to Radio SPLA on Al-Sadiq's threats that he will resign if his program does not attain majority support in the Assembly, has said that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's so-called program carries no solution to the current crises in the Sudan.

Commander William Nyon cautioned the members of the National Assembly to remind themselves while debating Al-Sadiq's confused and worthless program that the Sudanese people have been deceived and exploited for quite a long time by the sectarian traditional parties, who always use money to buy off the members of the Assembly from the backward areas to support them, while at the same time rendering these same representatives of the people impotent.

He pointed out that the present generation, especially the youth, have been enraged by this inhuman policy of oppressing the Sudanese people and have taken up arms under the SPLM/SPLA to uproot this odious system which is founded on exploitation and imperialist domination and to build a new Sudan of justice, equality and freedom for all.

In this regard, Commander William Nyon Bany appealed to the members of assembly to stand by the rights of their people and to reject the unpopular program of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, which is designed to perpetuate his grip onto power. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is embarrassing our generation in your presence by reviving slavery, encouraging racism, and looting the meager public resources and, inspite of this, he dares to threaten you that he will resign if you do not support his shaky program as if he were indispensable.

The time has prompted itself for you members of the National Assembly to throw down Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the exploiter and imperialist stooge, and if you fail to act the Sudanese people will never forgive you. I know this unpopular oppressor will only resort to bribery to win your support, especially the members of parliament for the south, west and east, who are experiencing the effects of economic underdevelopment of their regions, said Commander William Nyon Bany. He advised those members of parliament to receive that stolen money and say the truth.

I have no doubt that you cherish glory for your people and a person who loves freedom and glory for his country is duty-bound to fight for its achievement. Never be frightened or disheartened by the threats of the oppressor, because you have the people behind you, Commander William Nyon advised the members of the National Assembly.

Tunisia

Egypt's Al-Baz Arrives in Tunis on Visit

Holds Talks With Ben Ali
LD182100 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] This morning at the presidential palace in Carthage, His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in the presence of Premier Hedi Baccouche, met with Dr Usamah al-Baz, the first deputy foreign minister of Egypt and director of the office of President Husni Mubarak.

After the meeting, which was also attended by Mr 'Ali Mahir, head of the diplomatic mission in Tunis, Dr Usamah al-Baz said he was honored to meet His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He added that he conveyed to his excellency a message of fraternity, friendship, and amity from his brother President Husni Mubarak. He noted Egypt's appreciation and that of its people for the great role that Tunisia is playing under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in all fields and at various levels.

He said: We are watching the great current developments in Tunisia regarding democracy, and the awakening and building of the new Tunisia and the development in agricultural, industrial, and other sectors.

Dr Usamah al-Baz said Tunisia is undertaking important work by setting an example of democratic development. He lauded its role in the Arab Maghreb of seeking to bring about accord and close ranks, removing differences to arrive at a common ground that these fraternal states can stand on while working for the same goals.

He said there is great Egyptian pride in the constructive and positive role Tunisia is undertaking among Arabs by supporting all Arab causes, foremost of which is that of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied areas and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and the issue of the Gulf war. He affirmed that Egypt welcomes and is pleased with this role and admires its continuing and increasing growth in the new era, which is led by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Dr Usamah al-Baz also lauded Tunisia's international role. He said the meeting also enabled him to state Egypt's views on all Arab issues, adding that President Husni Mubarak asked him to convey an invitation to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to visit Egypt.

At the end of his statement, Dr Usamah al-Baz expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries during the reign of the two presidents would advance in the desired direction, which is in harmony with the close and deep-rooted relations between the Tunisian and Egyptian peoples.

He also expressed hope that more prosperity and progress will be achieved for Tunisia.

Ben Ali Invited to Egypt

NC181336 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, 18 Mar (MENA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received an invitation from President Husni Mubarak to visit Egypt in a verbal message conveyed to him today.

The message also deals with Egypt's views on developments in the region in view of the uprising in the occupied territories, efforts to reactivate the peace process, developments in the Gulf war, and Egypt's eagerness to promote bilateral relations in all fields.

This was noted in a statement by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, following his meeting with the Tunisian president today.

The meeting was also attended by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Ambassador 'Ali Mahir, Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tunis.

Dr Usamah al-Baz added that he had noted deep fraternal feelings toward Egypt on the part of the Tunisian president and other senior officials and their eagerness to promote bilateral relations in all areas. The two countries' views on bilateral, Arab, and international issues are similar, he added. [passage omitted]

Mestiri Denies Report on W. Sahara Mediation

LD182306 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Regarding the question of the Western Sahara and Morocco, there has been talk recently of mediation by Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. However, Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri has firmly denied this. Our correspondent in Tunis interviews him:

[Mestiri] No, there is no Tunisian or Saudi mediation, or Tunisian-Saudi mediation. There are ongoing efforts to try and see how the countries of the Maghreb can be brought together with a view to overcoming the obstacles which remain before us. One of these obstacles—perhaps the only one now remaining—is, in fact, the problem of the Sahara.

There have been no fresh contacts between the Saharans and the Moroccans. As you know, the Saharans are being supported by the Algerians. The Algerians and Moroccans for their part are in touch with one another—not permanently, but the contacts have increased in any case. These do not appear to have led to anything, because the problem of the Sahara is still there, and it is preventing bilateral relations between the two countries from developing normally. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Saudi Talks, Maghreb

PM181109 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Mar 88 p 6

[Muhammad Mahjub report on 'UKAZ WEEKLY interview with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri in Jeddah, date not given]

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri has emphasized that the warm reception, admiration, and welcome paid to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and officials in his wise government "exceeded our expectations of the meeting with our brothers."

In an interview with 'UKAZ WEEKLY Mestiri said that these meetings are beneficial to Saudi-Tunisian relations. In addition, they undoubtedly serve various Arab issues.

He added that meetings have always been held between us and that there is a clear personal relationship between the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, which gives a distinction to the relationship.

Regarding the dimensions of the economic agreement signed during President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to the Kingdom, he said that the agreement reflects existing cooperation. He added that it is all the more important to revitalize and boost it, since our prospects are broad and we must make progress in this regard. We may have retreated at certain stages for known reasons, but these reasons have now dissolved.

Mahmoud Mestiri went on to say: The Kingdom provides Tunisia with both aid and projects. He added that Tunisia obviously seeks to raise the level of this cooperation within the limits of resources and world economic conditions. He pointed out that the two countries have the potential for such cooperation.

Of the Tehran rulers' constant threats to exploit the next hajj season in a way that would violate the sanctity of the hajj, he said: The Tunisian Government adopted a clear and frank stand and was probably one of the first countries to declare its stand toward those events.

He pointed out that Iranian attitudes would obviously not bring Muslims together or serve the interests of the Islamic nation. Most certainly we cannot accept the Tehran government's behavior; indeed, we are against it. This was contained in a joint statement issued on the occasion of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit.

Regarding the measures taken by the Kingdom's government to deal with the demagogic Iranian incidents during the last hajj season, he said: It is evident to everyone that the Kingdom's policy under the custodian of the two holy mosques is based on Islam, its principles, and the interests of Muslims.

He added: We have full confidence in the wise policy pursued by the Kingdom. We expressed our absolute support for the measures taken by the custodian of the two holy mosques' government regarding the incidents that occurred in Mecca during the last hajj season.

As to whether there will be a summit comprising the leaders of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Libya, he said that there is no program in this regard. And I do not believe that there are issues that require to be discussed at summit level. But if we manage to come near to a settlement of the problems among us in the Arab Maghreb and secure something, we would then expect to convene a summit to build the Arab Maghreb in the near future. All that we hope for is a solution to the Sahara problem.

About ways of resolving that problem, he said that the problem can only be resolved by the parties concerned making concessions. And in fact no party is willing to make concessions despite the brotherly spirit among the parties. He added: We have held talks with all parties and we shall continue our efforts. This will be a difficult task, but we hope to reach a solution.

Regarding the possibility of Libya's entering into an agreement with Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania, he pointed out: We are still in constant contact with the Libyan brothers, but we have not sensed any clear desire to do so. The Libyan brothers agree with the idea, but without expressing any clear desire. Anyhow, the door is still open.

Bahrain

Decision Made To Participate in Arab Summit

JN201813 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has announced its agreement to participate in the emergency Arab summit conference called by Algeria to support Arab efforts in favor of the Palestinian people. This came during the ordinary weekly session of the Bahraini Council of Ministers held this morning under Prime Minister Sahykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister of State Meets Soviet Official

LD231611 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 23 Mar, KUNA—Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, today met Mikhail Sytenko, Soviet ambassador at large. They discussed bilateral issues and other issues of an international nature. During this meeting, which was held at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman, a number of issues of mutual importance to the two countries were reviewed, and several international issues of mutual importance were considered. The meeting was attended by Fadil Salim Bughayth, Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Amman. [name and title as received]

Al-'Usaymi is currently participating in the 17th conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states which is being held in Amman.

Court Counsellor Receives Soviet Commentator

LD221518 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1258 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Mar (KUNA)—The counsellor at the amiri court, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, today received the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to Kuwait, Muhammad Abdelkader Ould Sidi. During the meeting, bilateral relations and ways of consolidating cooperation, especially in the cultural field, as well as the current Arab situation were discussed.

The counsellor at the amiri court also received the political commentator of the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA, Aleksandr Bovin, who is currently visiting the country. Counsellor Husayn explained Kuwait's stances on various regional, Arab, and international issues. He also addressed a number of topics of mutual importance to both countries. [passage omitted]

PDRY

YAR Unity Minister Concludes Visit to Aden

EA182129 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Permanent Committee in the northern part of the homeland, left Aden this morning after a short visit to the southern part, during which he conveyed a verbal message to Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, from his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the Central People's Congress. ADEN NEWS AGENCY learned that Brother al-'Arashi is carrying a reply from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid to his brother, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, concerning unionist coordination between the two parts of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Council Agrees on Participation in Arab Summit

JN231319 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 23 Mar (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has agreed to participate in the emergency Arab summit, called for by Algeria, to discuss ways to support the Palestinian uprising. This came during a meeting of the Qatari Council of Ministers today chaired by Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Statement on 'Misinterpretations' of Oil Policy

LD232057 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1837 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Mar (SPA)—Denying the reports published by THE WALL STREET JOURNAL yesterday and those carried by UPI, which gave false interpretations of the statements issued by the Council of Ministers chaired by the custodian of the two holy mosques in its session held last Monday, His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has made the following statement to SPA:

"The statement emanating from the Council of Ministers about the comment made by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, on my report concerning the situation of the oil market was a clear and frank statement and is not open to interpretations made by the aforementioned paper and news agency."

The minister added: "It is perhaps also deplorable to see an Arab paper published in a friendly state, for which and for whose president, government, and people we feel

affection and respect, namely, the Algerian paper EL MOUDJAHID, misinterpret the directions of Saudi oil policy by attributing to me false statements and stands... This paper could have checked the veracity of the facts if it had asked for an explanation from his excellency the Algerian oil minister who received me in Algiers a few days ago."

The minister went on to say: "While I take the initiative of denying all the unrealistic misinterpretations carried by these media, I would like to reaffirm what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already announced in every meeting and every statement, that our country is committed to the resolutions adopted by OPEC during its previous meetings, and all member-states in the organization should abide by these resolutions in the interest of all by realizing what happened last year when the member-states abided by OPEC resolutions, thus bringing the price of one barrel of oil up to $21."

Hisham Nazir also said: "But if any state disregards OPEC resolutions, then the Kingdom is not responsible for the behavior of others as this should be dealt with by the control and follow-up committees. No side should level accusations at the other before being sure of the veracity of the facts."

The minister concluded his statement by saying: "In light of what I have said so far and to avoid any ambiguity, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is asking the chairman of the five-man committee and the chairman of the conference to hold an emergency meeting of the five-man committee entrusted by the conference to control prices to discuss the matter from all angles."

King Presides Over Council of Ministers Meeting

LD211842 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1637 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, presided over the Council of Ministers meeting held this afternoon, Monday, 21 March 1988, at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

Within the framework of the interests of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques in following up the new political, security, and economic developments in the region, and on directives from the king, the Council of Ministers at the start of the meeting today heard a summary of reports on the most prominent Arab and international events. In light of this, the council reviewed the stances of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis those events as specified and outlined by the King in his address to the council. The king said:

No doubt the Arab world has begun to realize fully the critical nature of the current circumstances the people of the Middle East are facing today. A matter that makes it necessary for us all to work hard together to ward off the dangers threatening us and to strive with all our power to bring about stable security and peace in all parts of the region, particularly with regard to the suffering of the sons of the Palestinian people inside the occupied Palestinian territories in the course of their heroic uprising, until God grants them victory by retrieving their homeland and establishing their state on their own territories.

The custodian of the two holy mosques also stressed the necessity of contacts and consultations between the leaders of the Arab nation to find a common view on which all will agree and so all trends will be united in the service of the issues of our nation and realize its hopes. He expressed his wishes for the halting of the war between the two Muslim neighbors—Iraq and Iran—and for the return of security, stability, and peace to Lebanon and Afghanistan.

The information minister added: After that the custodian of the two holy mosques acquainted the council with the results of his talks with his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the delegation that accompanied him, and said the talks are going as expected. The king informed the council of the outcome of the messages he received during the week from some leaders, including:

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac; the president of the Republic of China; the president of the Republic of Niger, Colonel Ali Saibou; and the president of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros, Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane.

Minister al-Sha'ir also said: The council also heard a report on the oil market from the minister of petroleum and mineral resources following his recent tour abroad. In his comment on the report the custodian of the two holy mosques said:

The fundamental element in the balance between supply and demand in the price is the adherence of all member-states to their production quotas and prices decided by OPEC. If any member violates this commitment the result will be reflected on the market—a matter which we are currently witnessing. In this case it will be difficult to ask those who are adhering to amend the situation at the expense of their own quotas. The custodian of the two holy mosques stressed his confidence that ultimately the OPEC member-states will find the appropriate solution in light of the lessons they have learned. [passage omitted]

Minister Meets Arab League, PLO Figures

LD231627 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, received in Riyadh this afternoon an Arab League

delegation including Dr 'Abd al-Muhsin Zarzala, assistant secretary general, and Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO representative. He discussed with them the recent developments in the Palestinian uprising and ways to consolidate and support it.

The Arab League delegation expressed its appreciation for the important backing that King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his people and government are giving the uprising on political and material levels. The delegation also praised King Fahd's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

United Arab Emirates

President Returns From Visit to Egypt

JN191928 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, returned to Abu Dhabi this evening after an official and private visit to Egypt lasting several days. During the visit, his highness held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the current situation, the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied homeland, bilateral cooperation, and issues of common interest.

Yemen Arab Republic

Unity Minister Returns From Visit to Aden

JN181447 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member, returned from Aden to Sanaa today. In a statement to SABA, Brother Yahya al-'Arashi said he is carrying a message from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general in the southern part of the homeland, to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, in reply to the message he conveyed to the former.

LE MONDE Interviews Kurdish Leader

PM211622 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Mar 88 p 5

[Interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani by Jean Gueyras in London—date not given]

[Text] London—"The genocide which the Armenians suffered in 1915 is being repeated in Iraqi Kurdistan."

On a brief visit to London, Jalal Talabani, one of the historical leaders of the Kurdish nationalist movement and leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]—the main peshmerga organization in Iraqi Kurdistan—expressed surprise at the fact that international opinion is not particularly worried by what is now happening in that part of the world.

"We are witnessing the outright destruction of everything Kurdish in our regions," he said.

"During this month alone, the Iraqis have used chemical weapons 23 times. Just 3 days ago, more than 2,000 Kurds, most of them civilians, lost their lives as a result of bombing raids using chemical weapons" carried out by the Iraqi Air Force in the region of Halabjah, recently occupied by the PUK forces.

An "Irrevocable Break" [subhead]

In this context, does Mr Talabani approve of the statements made by PUK Deputy General Secretary Amin Nushilwan, who told us almost 1 year ago that he wanted "Iraq to be split into several small states—Shi'ite, Sunni, and Kurdish"?

At the time, this statement produced a strong reaction in Iraq, even among the PUK's own allies, who saw it as a kind of clumsy provocation.

After some hesitation, Mr Talabani replied vaguely: "We want autonomy and self-determination for Iraqi Kurdistan. If a democratic regime is established in Iraq, we are prepared to accept a federation with it, on bases yet to be defined. But if Iraq remains a dictatorship, we will opt for the creation of an independent and democratic Kurdistan. Let us not forget that part of our country was given to Iraq by imperialism."

"We are opposed to all forms of dictatorship," he said. "In this case, we are the victims of President Saddam Husayn's personal power. The break between us and the Iraqi leader is definitive and irrevocable. We regard him as a war criminal and, even if he changes his mind and offers us a federation, we will reject his offer. He must go. All the crimes being committed in Iraqi Kurdistan have been ordered by him and him alone. We will not negotiate with him whatever happens."

The PUK leader said that he received a proposal from Baghdad at the end of February, asking him to resume the negotiations which were started in December 1983 with a view to revising the autonomy law of 11 March 1974, which governs Baghdad's relations with the Iraqi Kurds.

After 14 months of laborious discussions during which there were numerous incidents, preliminary talks broke down in January 1985 when they were on the point of succeeding.

Mr Talabani criticized himself to some extent by admitting that he believed the sincerity of the Baghdad negotiators at the time, whereas, he now admits, they were merely playing for time so that they could more effectively face the main threat, which came from Tehran.

However, he admitted that at the same time the PUK wanted a truce to enable its units, exhausted by the long struggle they had been waging without interruption since 1975, to regain their strength.

However, he added that he is prepared to talk with the Iraqis if the president is replaced by "somebody else." "I am prepared to resume the negotiations which were broken off in 1985," he said, "with 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri (vice president of the Revolutionary Council, often regarded as number two in the Baghdad regime) for instance, because I am firmly convinced that he does not agree with what is happening in Iraqi Kurdistan."

Mr Talabani strongly emphasized that his hostility toward President Saddam Husayn is not dictated by any kind of subservience toward Tehran or by the alliance which he concluded in October 1987 with Imam Khomeyni's regime, which he had previously regarded as the real threat to the Kurdish nationalist movement.

After the failure of the negotiations with Baghdad, he said, the Iranians offered us help provided we rid our "liberated territories" of the various Kurdish movements which opposed the Tehran regime. "We replied that our vocation was not to combat our Kurdish brothers, and it took almost 2 years for them to accept this idea."

A Purely Tactical Alliance [subhead]

Mr Talabani thinks that the alliance concluded between the PUK, Mas'ud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and the Iranians is purely tactical. "We have the right and duty to form an alliance with those who fight our enemies," he said, "but without undermining our independence. It is true that we are no longer helping our Kurdish brothers in Iran who are fighting the Tehran regime, but we refuse to wage war on them."

But how can he justify an alliance—even a tactical alliance—which denies the concept of autonomy on the pretext that it is incompatible with Islam?

Mr Talabani replied evasively, stating that the Tehran regime is not indulging in any anti-Kurdish excesses comparable with what is happening in Iraqi Kurdistan, and that his movement maintains complete independence inside Iraq toward Muslims grouped in the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, set up by Tehran.

"The only Islamic organization with which we are cooperating," he said, "is the Muslim movement of Iraqi Kurdistan—a Sunni organization which is independent of Tehran and which openly recognizes the Kurdish people's right to self-determination."

In conclusion, Mr Talabani bitterly regretted the fact that the French authorities refused him an entry visa to France. After all, is not Mr Chirac a good friend of Saddam Husayn, he said with a smile.

He also expressed the hope that the persistent rumors concerning the construction of a new Iraqi nuclear reactor with the help of French technicians—this time in Kurdistan, in Karatchouk [name as published], between Kirkuk and Makhmur—are unfounded.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Iranians Hit Cypriot Ship

JN231624 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1533 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] London, 23 Mar (INA)—The British insurance company Lloyds has said that Iranian speedboats today attacked a Cypriot ship, "Odysseus AG," transporting liquids 10 miles from the UAE's Ra's al-Khaymah waters.

In a cable to the INA office in London a short while ago, Lloyds cited its sources in the Arabian Gulf as saying that fire broke out on the Cypriot ship, but thus far nothing is known about casualties among its crew.

Lloyds explained that the ship "Odysseus" was on its way to Kuwait and that it is run by the S.A. Periossa Shipping Company. [name as received] It said the ship weighs 18,876 tonnes and was built in 1972.

Communique No 3,092

JN231803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,092 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued to implement their heroic activities, inflicting further losses on our country's Khomeyniite enemies. The results of these activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force carried out 68 combat missions today, during which they inflicted new losses on the enemy in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base with God's care.

2. The noble knights of helicopter gunships carried out 81 combat missions, inflicting other losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment. They all returned safely to base with their planes, God be praised.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector opened fire on opposing enemy units. They managed to achieve the following:

—Killed 62 scoundrels and injured others.

—Destroyed two tanks and three armored personnel carriers.

—Destroyed three mortars and two TOW missile bases.

—Destroyed four infantry positions and four posts.

—Set ablaze and destroyed 20 various vehicles and damaged 5 others.

—Blew up one ammunition dump.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, eight of the aggressors were killed; one 106—mm gun, one tubular launcher, three infantry positions, and one post were destroyed; one vehicle laden with ammunition was set ablaze and destroyed; and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. One infantry position and one shovel were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One enemy machinegun was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. In the VII Army Corps sector, one of the enemy personnel was killed; five infantry positions, one observation post, and one shovel were destroyed; one shovel was damaged; and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

8. The brave Al-'Amiq port force confronted 12 enemy boats which attempted to approach the port yesterday and forced them to flee.

9. At 0730 [0430 GMT] today, the tyrant rulers of Iran launched one of their missiles on Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area and injured civilians and damaged their property.

The scoundrel Khomeyniites also shelled with long-range artillery the residential districts in the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Al-Qurnah, and 'Ali al-Gharbi. The

enemy shelling martyred one civilian and injured one woman and damaged an elementary school and a number of houses and shops in Basra.

The shelling also injured one woman in 'Ali al-Gharbi and injured civilians and damaged their property in Khanaqin and Al-Qurnah. Mercy to our martyr and swift recovery to our two injured women, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1988

Plane Downing Denied

JN231919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1841 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims on downing an Iraqi plane today.

In a statement to INA this evening, the military spokesman said that all the planes which carried out their missions today returned safely to base. The spokesman challenged the rulers of Iran to provide one piece of evidence to prove this allegation, which he described as a lie.

Shelling of Basra, Al-Qurnah

JN240755 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0727 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 24 Mar (INA)—An INA correspondent has reported that the brutal Iranian artillery shelling which began yesterday against the city of Basra and Al-Qurnah District was continuing at 0900 local time today [0600 GMT].

In a report this morning, he added that heavy artillery shells are falling on most quarters of the city without interruption, particularly the populated areas. He cited administrative sources in the city as saying that one citizen was martyred and a number of citizens, including women and children, were wounded as a result of the shelling. Meanwhile, extensive damage was inflcited on property and houses, and a number of civilian cars were set ablaze.

Reports from the Al-Qurnah District, 75 km north of Basra, said heavy artillery shelling was continuing when this report was filed at 0900 local time today. The Iranian shelling caused an unknown number of casulaties and damaged civilian property.

Missile Strikes Noted

JN240903 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0822 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,093 issued by the Amred Forces General Command on 24 March]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great and victory will only be the lot of great Iraq, which defends its territory, sovereignty, and sanctities; which calls for right; and which also struggles for peace. [passage omitted] Today, the following was achieved:

1. At 0952 [0652 GMT], the 36th blow with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran

2. At the same time, the 37th blow was dealt to the city of Tehran, also using the Al-Husayn missiles.

3. At 0953, the 38th blow with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran.

4. At the same time, the 39th blow with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran.

5. At 0954, the 40th blow with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran.

6. At 0958, the 41st blow with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran, the cpaital of charlatans.

Let Tehran, city of aggression and mean grudges, become fed up with death and destruction. We will continue to inflict destruction on those who sought it. Our Iraq will proceed forward on the path of great victory. God, history, our nation, and every honorable one who loves freedom supports us. We have the upper hand because we are faithful.

Glory and pride to you, O men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. You were worthy of honorable deeds when time came. Long live our great people. Long live our victorious leader. Long live our Armed Forces. Praise be to God, Lord of the universe.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1988

Iranian Offensive Denied

JN241103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA)—In a statement today, an Iraqi military spokesman denied Iranian claims that an Iranian offensive was launched in the northern area [of Iraq]. The spokesman said what happened was that violent blows were dealt to the Iranian forces' positions with artillery and aircraft.

The military spokesman added that Iranian reports on the waging of a battle and the capture of several troops are false. He said what happened was that thousands of Iranians were killed as a result of intensive Iraqi artillery shelling and air raids. He explained that the Iraqi artillery, tanks, and aircraft still inflict hundreds of casualties on the Iranians.

Iranian Claims Denied

JN241253 Baghdad INA in English 1242 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 24, INA—An Iraqi military spokesman has just denied content of the military communique broadcast by Tehran radio at noon today, in which Iran claimed that an Iraqi jet fighter and a helicopter gunship were downed.

The spokesman said that all Iraqi aircraft and helicopter gunships returned safely to base after carrying out missions assigned to them.

3 Iranian Aircraft Shot Down

JN241403 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1335 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 24 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is God who granted victory to Iraq, which is struggling for the sake of its religion, freedom, and peace. It is also God who humiliates the unjust clique and defeats them every time they insist on aggression and crime.

The defeated Iranian regime sent three planes from what remained of its destroyed Air Force in an attempt to penetrate our international border in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our brave men of the heroic antiaircraft force confronted them and downed the first plane at 0749 [0449 GMT] today.

At 0938 today, our men downed the second plane. At 1356 today, our men downed the third plane. All three planes fell within our international border. They are all of the F-4 type. Praise be the lofty men of our antiaircraft force. Disgrace and ignominy to the scoundrel Khomeyniites and glory to free, progressive Iraq. God helps those who help His cause. He is the best of helpers.

[Dated] 24 March 1988

Briefs

Sulphur Reserve Estimates

Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA)—Heavy Industries Minister 'Abd al-Tawab 'Abdallah al-Mulla-Huwaysh has announced that Iraq has a reserve of sulphur estimated at 515 million tonnes. This makes Iraq the owner of the largest sulphur reserve in the world, according to a statement made to INA by the Iraqi minister. He said that explorations last year had led to the discovery of additional sulphur deposits estimated at 230 million tonnes, to raise the overall reserve to 515 million tonnes. Iraq is curently producing 500,000 tonnes per year and expects to increase it to 650,000 tonnes. He also said there are 300 million tonnes of materials containing aqueous aluminosilicate in the western desert. This metal is used in drilling deep oil wells, the construction of dams, and the metallurgical, oil, pharmaceutical, and dye industries. [Text] [*JN201918 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 88*]

Air Force Raids Targets Northwest of Sidon
TA231542 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1529 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] We have just received a report that air force aircraft attacked terrorist targets in southern Lebanon this afternoon. Alon Ben-David, our military correspondent, do you have any more details?

[Ben-David] Yes. The IDF spokesman has reported that targets northwest of Sidon were attacked. All our aircraft returned safely to their bases and the pilots reported that the targets were destroyed.

The objectives were buildings that served the terrorists as storage houses for equipment, warfare materiel, and vehicles. A vehicle that fired antiaircraft missiles at our aircraft was destroyed during the raid.

News agencies from Lebanon have reported that there is still no indication of the number of casualties. REUTER maintains that targets belonging to Sunni movements and militias were attacked.

The raid took place at 1600 and lasted several moments. Let us point out that this is the third air force raid in southern Lebanon over the past 2 weeks and the fourth since the beginning of the year.

'Powerful' Strike Reportedly Planned Soon
PM231519 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Ghassan Shirbil Report: "Exclusive Report To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Western Warnings of Israeli Plan for Military Reprisal Action Against Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An accredited diplomat in Beirut has conveyed to a Lebanese leader information indicating the possibility of Israel's embarking on some kind of military action in Lebanon during the second half of April or early May in order to cover a step to be taken in the West Bank that will constitute a response to the Palestinian uprising.

The diplomat pointed out that he was not officially assigned to convey such information, which was based originally on intelligence and diplomatic reports. He talked of what he called a scenario being reported among close circles within the Likud bloc headed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, whose supporters believe that hardline elements in the army could support a scenario of this kind.

He also said the formula proposed provides for a powerful military strike to be launched against a part of south Lebanon and the west of Al-Biqa' at one time, with a view to covering the process of evacuating a number of West Bank inhabitants toward the East Bank.

He added that such a step would constitute a response to some hardline circles in Israel which are calling for a way out of the current situation in the occupied territories via an action to transfer part of the problem to the outside, even if this action has a negative impact on Israel's image in the world. [passage omitted]

Vanunu Convicted of 'Grave Espionage,' Treason
TA240716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Mordekhay Vanunu has been convicted on all charges, our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports from the district court in Jerusalem. She adds that the verdict is still being read.

Mordekhay Vanunu was charged with grave espionage and treason. His sentence will be handed down on Sunday. Following the conviction, he is expected to be given a life sentence.

The affair began 18 months ago with THE SUNDAY TIMES disclosures on the nuclear reactor in Dimona. The newspaper based its report on information and photographs provided by Mordekhay Vanunu.

Inner Cabinet Adjourns With No Decision on Plan
TA231744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1710 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister recommended that the Inner Cabinet wait and not make a decision on the Shultz initiative until after the positions of the other parties involved in the proposed political process are clarified. The prime minister today briefed the Inner Cabinet on his political talks in Washington. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported twice today on the political talks he held in Washington last week with President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, Secretary of Defense Carlucci, and Treasury Secretary Baker. He reported on the reservations he expressed to Secretary Shultz on the proposed international conference.

In general, as he told the Likud ministers and later in the afternoon the Inner Cabinet members, Shamir had no difficulty in the United States explaining why he objects to an international conference.

The prime minister said: We do not have to be the first to provide an answer to the U.S. initiative. In this respect he mentioned Secretary Shultz' visit to the Middle East last October, during which Shultz proposed that the international conference be held under the auspices of the two superpowers alone. At that time I was the first to accept the offer, said Shamir, while King Husayn rejected it yet was not portrayed as a rejectionist. I am against the Shultz plan, the prime minister said, but not against Shultz the man.

In the end, the prime minister suggested we wait. He recommended that the Inner Cabinet refrain from making a decision now on Secretary Shultz' plan. If Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, wants to discuss the initiative and the Israeli Government's position on it now, naturally a vote will be held.

But even Shim'on Peres is well aware of the political balance of power in the Inner Cabinet. He knows that a tie vote in that forum means the defeat of the proposal of whoever submitted the question to a vote. Therefore, the Inner Cabinet adjourned this evening without making a decision. [end recording]

Labor Ministers Want Response

TA240537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Labor Party ministers believe Israel must give its consent to the Shultz plan now. The ministers met last night in Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' home. The Alignment ministers convened after hearing the prime minister's report to the Inner Cabinet on his talks during his Washington visit.

They expressed their concern that saying no to the U.S. initiative might bring about a deadlock which would lead to a serious deterioration in the region, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports.

Shamir Discusses Peace Initiative, Other Issues

TA232044 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by moderator Yoram Ronen and Yig'al Goren on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening. After the prime minister's visit to the United States, it seems that a temporary time-out has been achieved in the Shultz initiative. Still, the uprising in the territories is continuing during the political time-out as well. Prime Minister Shamir returned from the United States last night and is the guest in our studio today. Good evening to you and welcome. Good evening to my colleague Yig'al Goren too.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, according to what you said, in the United States you managed to curb the Shultz initiative. At this stage it seems there is no great chance of it materializing. Still, there is bewilderment and concern in Israel, and people are asking whether we are doomed to continue in the present grave situation without a political solution in sight.

[Shamir] First, I did not say I managed to curb the Shultz initiative. I did my best to persuade the United States to move toward direct negotiations. I am not opposed to the U.S. peace-making initiative. I think the United States is perhaps the only country in the world which has the appropriate characteristics, possibilities, and power to make peace in our region.

[Ronen] Still, you are opposed to the Shultz initiative as it was presented to you.

[Shamir] Correct. I do not accept Mr Shultz' proposals and would like to convince him to pursue a different road, to pursue the road he has always believed in, that of direct negotiations, with U.S. mediation, with U.S. participation and efforts to bridge gaps.

But why does he need this international conference? I have reservations about other clauses of the plan, too. We have discussed them and will continue to do so, I believe.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, most of the dispute indeed revolved around the way to reach negotiations, the international conference. If the international conference issue was not a moot point, would you have then accepted, in contrast, the principle on which the Camp David Accords are also based, namely Resolution 242, the principle of territories in exchange for peace. Also, do you think that without accepting this principle it is impossible to reach any agreement?

[Shamir] I would use the following language: You too, Brutus? In the United States I was asked 3 times a day what I have to say on this genius slogan of land for peace. Where was this formula invented? It is totally irrelevant, after all. I am saying a simple thing. We are committed to the Camp David Accords. We signed them, Egypt signed them, and the United States approved them too.

In those accords we pledged that in the second phase, after negotiations begin on the permanent status of the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, we will conduct negotiations on the permanent status of these areas. [sentence as heard] What does negotiations on the permanent status mean? It means negotiations on the sovereignty of these territories.

[Ronen] Still, Mr Prime Minister, what is there to discuss in negotiations on the permanent arrangements when you say in advance that after autonomy, when the permanent arrangements are on the agenda, we will not give up any part of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shamir] I did not say such a thing. I say I am going to negotiations without preconditions. I will try to convince and am prepared to be convinced, but these are negotiations.

[Ronen] Are you prepared to be convinced to give up parts of Eretz Yisra'el?

[Shamir] Let them convince me. Perhaps the Arabs will agree to give up some area. Why should this slogan or formula not apply to them too?

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, will it be...

[Shamir, interrupting] Excuse me. I have another thing to add. In such negotiations I will never say what my position will be. It is impossible to demand this of me. [Goren] In this context, would it be correct to say that if you received guarantees about the international conference—that it would be convened for a day or two, for example, and be dispersed immediately afterward—would you have accepted the Shultz initiative?

[Shamir] First, it is impossible to ask what would have happened if....It is a fact that it is what it is, and the Americans say this is a package deal, that it cannot be sliced from the rest of the clauses. Still, I have reservations about the other clauses as well. For instance, the clause they took from the Camp David plan, namely that the first stage will be negotiations on the interim status. We cannot use the term autonomy since neither the Jordanians nor the Egyptians like it.

Let us talk of the interim status then. It is stated that before negotiations start, the United States will announce its positions about the interim status in these negotiations. I do not accept this. If before the negotiations the United States publicly declares what its positions will be, is there a chance the Arabs will agree to anything less than that? This is not fair, as the saying goes.

The Americans should be go-betweens, the element that bridges gaps and gets positions closer together, but not determine the position in advance.

[Goren] Are you giving the Shultz initiative any chance anymore? As of today, it seems that neither the Arab countries nor Israel have announced their positions yet. Would it be correct to say that this plan is dying out, and that there is no reasonable chance of it materializing?

[Shamir] Look, I do not want to engage in guesswork and predictions. I want, am prepared, and have to address myself to all those points that concern Israel. International conference—this is bad for Israel. Entering negotiations on interim arrangements after the United States declares its position—this is not good for Israel. We are experienced in this.

As for the third stage, the negotiations on the permanent status, which according to the plan, should start even before the beginning of the implementation of autonomy—this surely is not logical. This brings the true meaning, the whole sense of the Camp David Accords to naught. It empties them of any content.

[Ronen] At the Inner Cabinet meeting this evening you said you recommend we await the reaction of the Arab countries before an Israeli Government decision is adopted on the Shultz initiative. Defense Minister Rabin and other Alignment people say we should respond to the U.S. initiative in the affirmative regardless of the Arabs' reactions, to prove we are headed for peace.

In this way we can influence the Arab countries to accept the plan after we adopt it in principle. In other words, we should say: Yes, we accept the plan, but under certain conditions.

[Shamir] First, what you have just said surprises me, because when I suggested we wait a little to see what the other sides' reactions would be, Mr Peres immediately expressed his agreement and suggested we wait. He did not express a single word against this.

[Goren] The defense minister's remarks were made during your U.S. visit.

[Shamir] Well, I am speaking of today's position. Peres' position today was one of wait and see. I was glad that at least on this matter there are no disagreements.

[Ronen] How long will we wait? Will we wait until we know the Jordanians reject the plan, for example, that...

[Shamir, interrupting] No, look. In negotiations you are at an advantage when you can determine your positions after you learn those of the other side. I told Mr Shultz:

Look, in October 1987 you came here with a certain proposal; namely, that instead of an international conference the parties will be invited to the summit between the U.S. President and the Soviet general secretary, where the two leaders will appeal to the regional countries' leaders, will propose that they enter negotiations.

The international show would thus end, with the result being the start of direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan. I then immediately expressed my position; I did not wait for Husayn's position. To my great regret, Husayn later rejected this proposal.

Now I am asking for the opposite. Let us see; let us give Husayn the right of way. Let him give his answer, and then I will give mine. This is fair, is it not?

[Ronen] I assume King Husayn says he wants to hear what you say, and then he will make his decision.

[Shamir] Why should he get that opportunity twice? Let it be him once and me once.

[Goren] Regarding King Husayn, almost a year ago Shim'on Peres signed the famous agreement with King Husayn in London. A year has elapsed since, and the

situation created today is that while we keep speaking of negotiations with Jordan, with King Husayn, Husayn's power, at least in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, is growing weaker by the day.

Are we losing even the single option, from our viewpoint, of Jordan, and may ultimately have to put up with the negative option of much more radical elements?

[Shamir] Forgive me, I have already heard these theories of what would have happened if....I was opposed to an international conference then, and am opposed to an international conference today. What point are you making here? If Husayn could make no contribution to peace then, he cannot make any contribution today either.

[Goren] Do you believe in his ability to be a serious partner today for a solution to the problem? Is he still our most serious interlocutor?

[Shamir] We need Arab partners. Therefore, the approach, the so-called concept [last word in English] is negotiations, talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian group. This is it.

Husayn constitutes the Jordanian part of this formula. He undertakes to help us find the Palestinian part. It is with this group that the direct negotiations will be conducted, according to the opinion and assumption of everybody.

[Ronen] Still, in the process of Palestinization, of radicalization which the territories are going through today, the inhabitants of the territories, those who lead the territories, almost do not take Jordan into account. The voice of those few leaders in the territories who were affiliated with Jordan is hardly heard or considered today.

[Shamir] This is true. It is true that King Husayn today has almost no influence over these territories. Therefore, I am astonished by his great demands. What is he insisting upon? What is he investing in this? I think we should go to direct negotiations with them.

[Goren] Let me repeat my question: You agree, after all, that his status is growing weaker. Should we waste any energy at all on him?

[Shamir] Look, I am prepared for direct negotiations with all our neighbors. He is one of our neighbors. Do not forget that another task, another goal in these negotiations is the signing of peace between us and Jordan. This too is important. This he surely can give.

[Goren] On the way we are perhaps losing the main elements we are in dispute with, the Palestinians, are we not?

[Shamir] Look, it is not a matter of having them in our pocket and then losing them. The Palestinians, if they ever understand that they need to coexist with us, will come to negotiations. If they do not understand this, they will never come.

[Ronen] Perhaps, Mr Shamir, we should try still another way, that of a dialogue with moderate Arab leaders who are still left in the territories so we won't need, at a later stage, to talk with extreme leaders who are leading today's riots.

[Shamir] Who are these leaders?

[Ronen] Hanna Sinyurah, for instance. He is considered a moderate. You would probably say he is a PLO person.

[Shamir, laughing] He is definitely a PLO person. He is a PLO messenger. He obeys the PLO. There is no doubt about it. In which case, we can conduct negotiations with the PLO directly; why should we have such messengers who do not represent anything?

[Goren] In other words, you do not find any leadership in the area to hold a dialogue with, which does not belong to the PLO?

[Shamir] This is, after all, the tragedy of the Palestinian people, if one exists. Throughout the years, even before the foundation of the State of Israel, the Israeli people have always been prepared to conduct negotiations with the Palestinians, and they have always refused. They could not elect representatives for themselves.

They have always been ruled by a radical, terrorist minority, and they therefore always relied on outside forces, on the Arab countries. I still remember the St James conference in the time of the British. Today they say the PLO. This is their tragedy. This is nothing new.

[Ronen] Still, we too may have had a part in not cultivating, rather suppressing, sprouts of moderate leadership in the territories.

[Shamir] Have you ever seen a certain people create the leadership of another? There is no such thing. A leadership is emerging, developing.

[Ronen] We were still the ruler in the territories, and could have fostered a moderate leadership.

[Shamir] No ruler can artificially establish a leadership for a ruled people. We have not been such a ruling people either. After all, the Camp David Accords have existed for 10 years already, and we told them we are prepared to hold negotiations with them. We said representatives of the Palestinian people will participate in the determination of their fate and future. We have told them so.

[Goren] As of this moment, Mr Shamir, does the situation in the territories, which you have today defined as a state of war, convince you that time is not acting in our favor, that the sooner we find some sort of an arrangement, the better our condition will be?

[Shamir] I do not think time works for or against us. Peace should be made any time. Any hour is good for peace. If peace could be made now, we are surely prepared. The problem is one of conditions, of who goes for negotiations. A people should always aspire and work for peace.

[Goren] In the United States you repeatedly said you have your own peace plan as a counterpoint to the Shultz initiative which you rejected. What is your peace plan?

[Shamir] Just this: direct negotiations in line with the Camp David Accords, possibly with certain alterations to accommodate Jordan. Making peace with Jordan is the issue here. In the peace agreement I would include the solution to that very painful problem of the refugee camps. It is necessary to remove that plague from our region. After all, it is only a source of bitterness.

[Ronen] But with all due respect, these are not novel ideas. They are ideas you have actually been repeating since the establishment of this government, maybe even before.

[Shamir] Not exactly, not exactly. You must remember that I am not paid by the new ideas I generate. I am seeking the right solution, not necessarily a new one.

[Goren] Do you believe that despite the sincere desire of the United States to see some kind of process materialize, Israel can somehow take the initiative and bring about some form of negotiation with the regional elements without external mediation? Do you believe this is realistically feasible?

After all, we have come to realize that even the current U.S. initiative, whose intentions are more serious than ever before, has actually reached a dead end. If this is the case, are we actually destined to be left with nothing?

[Shamir] First of all, the United States has not yet reached a dead end. It can still amend its proposals or examine others. Only yesterday THE NEW YORK TIMES ran an editorial whose headline ran as follows: Do Not Discard the Plan; Alter It! In that editorial, the newspaper listed those points over which Shamir, that intransigent, stubborn, rejectionist man, is right. Check his plans, examine his proposals was the exhortation.

I have no intention of offending the United States; on the contrary. I have a very high regard and great respect for the kind of contribution the United States can make toward peace in the region. It is the only country that can do so.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission, let us go back to the situation in the territories. Do you think it is possible to revert to the state of affairs that prevailed prior to 9 December even if this is achieved through a relative quiet in the riots? [sentence as heard]

[Shamir] I believe we must restore normal life and order, otherwise things will be very bad. It will be very bad from the security point of view because this disease is spreading all over Eretz Yisra'el, including inside the Green Line. Second, as long as these riots continue, it will be impossible to conduct negotiations. These people—the stone throwers, the instigators, the agitators—are currently feeling euphoric and exalted, thinking they have won. In such a state of affairs, neither they nor any other Arab element will be prepared to make any compromise or concessions.

It will thus be impossible to sit down at the negotiating table with them. This will only be possible after we put an end to this phenomenon and terminate this momentum. Only then might there be a chance for a dialogue and negotiations with them.

[Ronen] But meanwhile, Mr Prime Minister, we have returned to the Green Line. Jerusalem residents hardly travel to the eastern part of the city, and naturally they do not visit Judaea and Samaria. People seem to be afraid of crossing the Wadi 'Ara area.

[Shamir] Things are not as bad as you try to portray them. I know many Jews who travel even on roads in Samaria, Judaea, and Jerusalem. Are they not Jews? This is true for those who reside in those areas, but they also have visitors. Really, all the citizens of Israel should be called upon to travel and go there. Nothing will happen to them.

[Goren] Likud ministers have recently criticized the defense minister's policy in the territories. Now that you are back from the United States, do you intend to take action to have that policy changed in order to attain the absolute quiet you mentioned?

[Shamir] Look, the IDF's plans are constantly being changed. The IDF is drawing lessons and learning from reality. It alters and improves its methods. It does not take wars to do that, however. There is no need to argue with the defense minister; he is attentive, he consults with others, and accepts other people's advice.

[Goren] Are you saying you support his policies?

[Shamir] I definitely support Israel's security policy. I do not always fully agree with the defense minister on everything, but I usually back him. I believe that for Israel's good, we must preserve this consensus at least as far as security is concerned.

[Goren] Sir, do you think it is still possible to turn back the clock; that is, is it possible to go back to the situation as it was before 9 December? Or are we actually on the brink of a new era?

[Shamir] The situation can undoubtedly be reversed, brought back to normal, or perhaps even improved, because before the riots broke out we may have overlooked their roots and taken no notice of the emerging signs. I think that at present it is not enough to restore order and bring life back to normal, but that it is necessary to prepare the ground in such a way that would guarantee these phenomena do not recur ever again.

[Goren] What do you mean by that? What should be done?

[Ronen] Perhaps employ harsher measures than those currently taken by the IDF?

[Shamir] Look, I would not like to go into detail, as this may be harmful. There are, however, ways and means to prevent the recurrence of such dangerous phenomena.

[Goren] Can you conceive of a possibility that one of the ways of calming down the situation could be the granting of greater autonomy or more leeway in self-rule for the Arab inhabitants to offset the pressure?

[Shamir] The two are completely unrelated. Autonomy is a political solution we are committed to, one that would evolve following negotiations and an agreement between Israel and the inhabitants of these areas. Security is an issue unto itself. It must, absolutely must, prevail throughout Eretz Yisra'el.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, you said you do not wish to get into specifics regarding the operational steps that should be taken in the territories. Yet in general terms, do you think we should possibly become more intransigent in light of the assassination of our first soldier in Bethlehem this week—an incident that occurred during your stay in the United States?

[Shamir] Everything should definitely teach us a lesson and we should draw the appropriate lessons from everything. I would not say that we should do this or that. If I do have something to say, I will say it to the defense minister or my fellow cabinet members, perhaps even to the chief of staff, if we have the proper opportunity in a conversation—not in public.

[Goren] Could it be, Mr Prime Minister, that what has been taking place these past few months indicates that a democracy is ill-suited to contend with such a reality and that an army of a state such as ours is by nature not fit to handle such a situation?

[Shamir] Of course this is more difficult in a democratic regime than in autocratic or totalitarian regimes, where there are no bounds or restrictions. They have no qualms about killing hundreds or thousands of people, if this is required to restore order.

For us, things are more difficult because we are a democracy, and also because we believe that we will have to live with these people. This is harder. Were it not for these self-imposed restrictions, we might have been able to put an end to these riots a long time ago.

[Goren] But do you believe it is within our power to put an end to the situation and reverse it so the state of affairs prevailing prior to 9 December prevails again?

[Shamir] Without a doubt.

[Ronen] But this means we will have to live by the sword for a long time to come.

[Shamir] Look, I do not know how long we will have to live by the sword. After all, peace is not at our doorstep. We are only talking about a certain stage. Even if we do reach some sort of solution right now, there will still be problems. There will still be Syria. We will still have to contend with problems.

Peace is a process. As the defense minister phrased it, this is not a situation that can be resolved with one fell swoop. I agree with him. Peace with Egypt is also a process. That process must continue. The problem is that it must progress in a positive trend.

[Goren] Do you think there is a chance that during your term as prime minister a political process or direct negotiations could begin?

[Shamir] That depends on how long I serve in this capacity.

[Ronen] This brings me to the final question, namely the issue of elections: Do you still believe that elections should be held on time, on 1 November? You said you had second thoughts about possibly holding early elections.

[Shamir] Look, I don't think this is such an important problem. The difference, after all, would only be a matter of a few months—2 or 3. What difference can it make, holding the elections 2 months earlier or later? Let us decide on the matter.

[Ronen] In other words, you have no objection to holding elections in September, either?

[Shamir] No, I have no objection. Yet I do not regard this as such a significant matter.

[Goren] By shortening the election campaign we could possibly prevent such recurrences as we have fortunately overcome since the 1981 elections but whose first signs we can still see now: namely, a radicalization in public expressions from both camps which could actually lead to great hatred but would not yield a substantial discussion of the real issues.

[Shamir] You know, I have been hearing this kind of talk both before and during every election campaign. There is nothing new under the sun. There is radicalization, there are some statements that I would gladly not hear emanating from all the sides. This was true, is still true, and will continue to be true.

[Goren] Will you take action to calm things down?

[Shamir] To the extent that this is within my power. I am against any radicalization. I hate brutality even in words.

[Ronen] Do you think the election campaign which has already been launched is more violent than we have ever seen before?

[Shamir] I do not believe it will be violent; it will be an election campaign whose purpose will be to persuade and explain, because the problems are very serious and fundamental. I do not think violence will help here.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, thank you for coming to the Moqed studios this evening. Thank you, Yig'al Goren, too. To our listeners at home, good evening and see you next week.

Sees Struggle Continuing

TA231653 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister told Likud members that it is too early to rejoice and celebrate, because the war and the political struggle have not yet ended.

According to Mr Shamir, there are evil schemes to dwarf Israel and shrink it to dimensions in which it will not be able to survive. The prime minister was addressing a special session of the Likud faction in the Knesset.

Press Views Shamir's Stance

TA231206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HA'ARETZ says that in the short run, Shamir and the Likud can claim to have come out ahead in the dialogue with Shultz and Reagan. It is hard to see how the Alignment will make them change their mind.

The paper adds that if the United States and the USSR reach an agreement, Israel will have to conform to their wishes. If such an understanding is not reached, we may be able to stay in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the moment. Israel, however, does not have a monopoly on stubbornness, and talk of increasingly oppressive measures is not encouraging.

HATZOFE says there is no doubt that not only is the rigid policy line adhered to by the Arab states not helping to promote the peace process, it is practically sabotaging it. Under such circumstances Shamir is exempt from replying to Shultz, because there is no one to negotiate with.

This is not the right time to stand idly by; it is time for new Israeli initiatives to put an end to the riots in the territories and restore order. It is also time to reassess the political and security concepts that the new developments in the Middle East call for.

'AL HAMISHMAR says the problem with Shamir's rejection of peace is that it is not the United States but Israel and its citizens who will suffer from the absence of peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Shultz Should See Reality or Cancel Visit

TA231526 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Reality George Shultz Should Be Aware Of"]

[Text] In the next few weeks U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz intends to embark on a new trip to the Middle East to hold talks with the concerned countries on his plan which he believes will achieve the desired peace in the region.

There are, however, some questions that must be posed:

1—On what basis does Shultz want to make another visit, seeing that his initiative has met nothing but total rejection from the PLO due to the fact that this plan comprises another disgraceful U.S. attempt to exclude the PLO from any negotiations, in addition to distorting the righteousness of the Palestinian cause?

2—On what basis does Shultz want to pay another visit after the talks Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz reaffirmed the depth of the "strategic alliance" between the United States and Israel regarding the Arab region and its problems, particularly the Palestinian problem?

3—There is another question: Will Shultz, on the basis of the spurious "differences" in his plan between Washington and Tel Aviv, try to gain further concessions from some Arab regimes?

These Arab regimes are liable to say yes to the U.S. plan only because the Israeli side has said no.

It was simultaneously painful and ludicrous to read some 10 days ago that the foreign minister of an Arab regime stated that his government will respond to the U.S. plan only after Israel does so. We do not intend to comment on such a mode of Arab thinking, which still governs Arab policies.

We return to the first question, the central one, which relates to the U.S Administration's insistence on ignoring the PLO and on ultimately excluding it from any negotiations. We reaffirm that it is impossible to reach a settlement of the Middle East crisis as long as the PLO does not participate effectively and independently in the negotiations.

If Shultz does not realize this reality and comprehend its dimensions he should save himself the trouble and refrain from paying another visit to the region.

Chief of Staff Approves Saar-5's for Navy

TA240558 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Mar 88 p 1a

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] The chief of staff yesterday approved the procurement plan for the Navy as proposed by the committee headed by General Yisra'el Tal, retired.

The plan recommends that the Navy procure new Saar-5 missile boats which will be built in the United States and submarines to be built in the FRG. The chief of staff approved the budget for the plan as recommended by the committee, although it is 25 percent higher than that decided on by the IDF Central Command before the committee was set up.

The plan now requires the approval of the defense minister, whose final okay is very likely.

Rabin Sees No Danger of War in 'Near Future'

TA231223 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes Israel is not in danger of war. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi reports on the defense minister's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Ashkenazi] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin toured the Gaza Strip today. In response to a question as to whether an all-out war should be expected if political moves are not taken in order to solve the dispute, Rabin said that to the best of his knowledge, such a possibility is unlikely at the moment.

[Rabin] I would like to say that the State of Israel, the defense establishment, and the IDF in particular must always take such a possibility into account, follow developments, and be prepared for any eventuality. At the moment, I foresee no change in the situation in the near future.

[Ashkenazi] Reacting to reports about plans to change procedures for the mobilization of veteran reservists in view of the situation in the territories, the defense minister said that as long as a mobilization is not based on political considerations, it is an internal military affair.

[Rabin] The IDF works within its own parameters. Ideas about calling up veteran reservists are raised within the IDF. It is up to the army to decide, as long as the mobilization is not based on parochial considerations with political implications. [end recording]

Notes Measures To Fight Unrest

TA231257 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe during Rabin's tour of Gaza Strip on 23 March—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, you announced yesterday that civilians can also open fire at those who throw Molotov cocktails, and later you elaborated on your announcement.

[Rabin] There are specific orders about what civilians in the territories can or cannot do when their lives are in danger. In view of the fact that civilians do not have responsibility for maintaining order, as do military personnel or members of any other security branch, those orders are limited to life-threatening situations.

[Menashe] You talked about fatigue on the part of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria, and Gaza in particular.

[Rabin] Arrangements have been made to ensure a faster response to violent actions, so they may be nipped in the bud. Other measures have been taken in various fields, and one begins to sense a degree of tiredness within a certain sector of the population.

I am not talking about extreme activists, but about the vast majority which is sympathetic to these extreme elements, but whose actions are affected by the extent to which it feels threatened by the extremists, by the IDF's activities, and by the other measures affecting its freedom of action and its economic standard of living.

[Menashe] Sweeping arrests have recently been carried out in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Are these preemptive arrests being conducted in anticipation of Land Day?

[Rabin] The purpose of all the measures taken by the defense establishment and the IDF is to restore peace in the territories and help the Civilian Administration and the local authorities work for the well-being of the population. Those measures are on three planes:

1) Use of force to deal with all the manifestations of violence with all the means at our disposal; 2) arrests of organizers, agitators, and those who actually take part in violent activities; 3) some selective and some less selective administrative and economic measures. These three components are occasionally reviewed to see how effective they are and what else can be done. Of course, all this is done according to the law.

Reviews Palestinian Situation

DW220921 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 21 Mar 88 pp 176-181

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by DER SPIEGEL editors Leick, Zoller, and Doerler; date and place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Rabin, the revolt in the occupied territories has now lasted for over 100 days and an end is not in sight. Is it a new Israeli-Arab war—with the Israelis being the losers this time?

Rabin: No doubt it is a continuation of the Israeli-Arab conflict by other means. What the Palestinians are doing now is a new form of violence against us. It is the first time that Arabs living under Israeli control have engaged in civil resistance. In fighting that resistance we must abide by our law and the norms and values of our armed forces. Therefore, everything takes longer. It could last much longer than we like.

SPIEGEL: Is restraining unarmed civilians straining your army?

Rabin: In this conflict our armed forces are deprived of their most efficient weapons. We can't use the air force, tanks, or artillery. In extreme cases we can use small arms, rifles, submachine guns, or pistols. And that only strictly according to our law—if there is real danger to the lives of our soldiers, border policemen, or other persons involved in the incidents. However, we will master that challenge.

SPIEGEL: Are you afraid that you cannot win the conflict at all?

Rabin: So far we have lost nothing, not an inch of land. We have in no way lost control of the territories. One of the most painful prices in such a conflict is the loss of human lives. Unfortunately about 90 Palestinians have been killed so far but not one Israeli, civilian or soldier, has been killed.

SPIEGEL: That is the cold calculation of an Israeli military representative. However, the problem cannot be resolved by military means.

Rabin: A solution in the sense of pacification along our frontiers can be found only through a political process. Some pacification, however, even if only relative—there were occasional demonstrations, violence, and terror before the unrest broke out on 9 December 1987—can very well be achieved by military force.

SPIEGEL: Were you surprised by the revolt? We have the impression that Israel has lost the initiative for the first time since the breakout of the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

Rabin: The same could be said about fighting terrorism. We have been unable to end the Palestinian terrorism coming from Lebanon, not even through the 1982 war.

SPIEGEL: In contrast to the Arab-Israeli wars and the defense against terrorists, the world does not see Israel as being a David fighting a Goliath. The public sympathizes with the weaker ones, the Palestinians. Do you feel oppressed being characterized as the oppressor?

Rabin: Public relations are important inasmuch as they can be turned into political advantage. But what did the Palestinians gain? Take the only practical initiative that is so far on the table, the U.S. peace plan. Mr 'Arafat's PLO does not appear there at all.

SPIEGEL: That the Israelis are considered the bad guys does not worry you at all?

Rabin: There were times before when we suffered setbacks in public relations. Naturally it is important for us that our problems are understood and that people sympathize with us.

But what options did we have when the unrest broke out and continued? Give up and run away? Nobody in Israel would advise doing that. Withdrawal would have only encouraged terror, violence, and wars, making any hope for peace meaningless. Therefore we must master the unrest in our own way.

SPIEGEL: Through violence, power, and beatings, as you said.

Rabin: We do not open fire without reason. We do not let tanks fire at villages. When we use sticks the whole world is offended—why do you beat them up? How else should we convince them to stop their violence? Shall we throw flowers at them?

I must say that I find public reaction very strange. When we were using live ammunition at first, it was very bad. When we shifted from shooting to beating it was also bad. Okay, one thing is bad and the other is also bad. We are doing what we deem necessary.

SPIEGEL: Your most loyal friends in the Western world, even influential Jews in the United States, criticize your iron-fist policy as being inhuman and unacceptable. Can Israel afford to react with stoicism?

Rabin: I will tell you something: I served my country for 5 years, from 1968 to 1973, as ambassador to the United States. There I saw demonstrations and riots with violence and brawls to a degree that seemed most amazing to me at that time. So whoever criticizes us should not forget how he uses his authority at home to handle demonstrations and violence.

SPIEGEL: After all, the U.S. police were beating their own citizens. How will you respond to an American Jew like Ted Man, the president of the American Jewish Congress, when he calls your action inhuman?

Rabin: He can call it that. We live in a free country, and he lives in a free country. He can state his own opinion, but that does not mean we have to obey.

SPIEGEL: Indignation is caused by your soldiers beating unarmed people and frequently killing them. People living for 20 years deprived of their rights in their occupied homeland...

Rabin: You speak all the time of occupied territories. Must I explain to you what has actually happened? Since the end of the 6-day war in 1967, all Israeli governments have demonstrated their preparedness for a political resolution. We have taken no unilateral steps that would have changed the political and legal status of the areas. We could have annexed the land.

SPIEGEL: Then Israel would possibly not be a Jewish state anymore.

Rabin: Even then there would have been a clear Jewish majority with 3.5 million Jews against 2 million Palestinians. Then the majority would have decided what kind of a state it wants. We preferred to leave the decision on the status of the territories to future peace negotiations.

Now we are told that Israel does not give full civil rights to the people living there. Had we annexed the territories, the whole world would have yelled in dismay. However, when the territories are not part of the sovereign State of Israel, we cannot give its residents the rights of Israeli citizens. Thus we are in accord with the Geneva conventions.

SPIEGEL: That is formally correct. But 20 years of occupation have aggravated so much the frustration and hopelessness of the people that an explosion is now taking place.

Rabin: The outburst proves without doubt that frustration has reached a peak. The revolt is the consequence of 40 years of refugee life in camps—20 years under Egyptian and Jordanian governments and 20 years under our control. In addition there was the disappointment that after 2 and 1/2 years of apparent political progress, all the hopes of the Palestinians have been shattered again. First there was rapprochement between 'Arafat and King Husayn. Then followed the breach between Husayn and 'Arafat and the closure of the PLO office in Jordan. Then came Jordan with its plan of rendering economic help to the Palestinians in the territories, and that failed also.

SPIEGEL: What finally started the revolt?

Rabin: The straw that broke the camel's back was the combination of the two summit meetings late last year: The Arab leaders summit meeting in Amman in November 1987 showed the Palestinians that the conflict with Israel was swept under the carpet. The Amman debates dealt with the danger of Iranian Khomeynism and the Gulf war—nothing else.

At the summit meeting 4 weeks later between Reagan and Gorbachev in Washington, no attention was paid to the Israel-Arab conflict. It was an unmistakable signal: no help from the Arab states, no help from the international community, no help from Israel. The unrest broke out spontaneously. Even those who cooperated in the beginning did not know what would become of it. There was no plan and no organization. The PLO was also completely surprised.

SPIEGEL: How long can Israel bear the burden economically, politically, and militarily?

Rabin: Limiting the unrest is not very costly. In a war one needs aircraft, bombs, expensive ammunition, artillery, and tanks. What does one need here? Sticks and more soldiers, that is all. In addition some jeeps and trucks. The matter is unpleasant but cheaper than any other military action.

SPIEGEL: In your memoirs following the 6-day war you wrote that the Israeli army always preserved its humanity, even in the heat of the battle. Would you also say that today?

Rabin: Of course I would. Otherwise, hundreds of Palestinians would have been killed.

SPIEGEL: Are you not shocked to see your glorious soldiers beat up women and children?

Rabin: I am not shocked. I do not like to see abuses in violation of orders.

SPIEGEL: Do such missions affect your soldiers' motivation? After all, they were trained for entirely different tasks.

Rabin: They are also motivated now. They were trained to fight against military units or armed terrorists...

SPIEGEL: ... and they fought knowing they did so for the survival of the Jewish state.

Rabin: The task continues to be Israel's survival, just as it was in all the other wars. The Arabs have the same political goals. And here in these territories they are closer to us than the terrorists in Lebanon. Their incendiary devices may be as lethal as hand grenades. Ask the soldiers. Some 80 percent of them say that they would prefer to shoot from a distance of 30 meters, no matter at whom, instead of clubbing people at close range.

SPIEGEL: To shoot is easier than to beat?

Rabin: Much easier. But I have decided to restrict the use of live ammunition. Wherever violent incidents take place, disturbances, demonstrations, street barriers, throwing stones—the troops are to react by using gas grenades and rubber shells. If that does not dissolve riotous assemblies they are to use clubs—but only as long as open confrontation lasts. If the Palestinians hold up their hands, the clubbing ends.

SPIEGEL: That is theory. We have seen other cases.

Rabin: Yes, we did see other cases, but not very many. If we assume that 3 percent of the thousands of soldiers concerned have done such things, that would be a high estimate.

SPIEGEL: So far, the Palestinians have thrown stones and Molotov cocktails. What would happen if they were to start shooting?

Rabin: Then some people would perhaps be killed, but they would lose their battle. On television screens it would no longer look like a revolt of civilians against the military, but like a battle of terrorists against the military. It seems for the time being as if they have been clever enough not to shoot.

SPIEGEL: Did you ever consider the possibility of quickening the process by using brute force, as suggested by Kissinger? By using tanks, for instance?

Rabin: But why? I am not going to attack a crowd with tanks. Jordan's King Husayn had a Palestinian camp fired at during Black September 1970. That is the difference. Syria's President al-Asad had thousands of Muslim brothers killed in Hama in 1982. Israel will never do that.

SPIEGEL: Kissinger also recommended that the press be kept out.

Rabin: Where else in the Middle East can journalists report as they do in Israel? We do not intend to keep the press out. But—whenever television turns up, people's behavior changes. Anybody filmed by television behaves the way he believes the public should see him. The mere presence of television may encourage more violence.

SPIEGEL: Your officers often refuse entry to reporters.

Rabin: Under our laws there is no way to close an area to the media. However, every commander has the right to declare a troubled area a prohibited military area off limits to everybody. From time to time, in expectation of what might happen, usually on Fridays—the Muslims' day of prayers—we close specific areas.

SPIEGEL: Radicalization is also increasing in the interior of the country. The settlers in the occupied territories reproach the army with not proceeding energetically enough against the Palestinians. Do you understand such complaints?

Rabin: Currently I am criticized by everyboday. The leftists assail me because of my iron-fist policy. The rightists because I am too lax. When left and right extremists attack me simultaneously I have the feeling that I am standing on safe ground.

SPIEGEL: Meanwhile the settlers often take things into their own hands. They raid the Palestinians in their villages.

Rabin: I am concerned about that. The settlers were warned about such raids. There have been cases where our army proceeded against them with tear gas.

SPIEGEL: On the other hand, the Palestinians also started a new phase of resistance. They lynch collaborators, they refuse to pay taxes, and hundreds of Palestinian police quit. Are you concerned that there might be total anarchy and chaos?

Rabin: The tax evaders do not worry me. Nobody gets a working or business permit unless he can prove he has paid his taxes. So far, we have only lost 20 percent of the income and VAT in the territories. We can live with that. If Palestinian police resign, the Palestinians will be the only ones to suffer. What is being done now is an attempt to undermine the communal structures. Israel will not be affected, but the Palestinians will be harmed.

SPIEGEL: But you cannot pretend, can you, that it does not concern you at all.

Rabin: With all respect—if they insist on harming themselves, let them do so.

SPIEGEL: You do not feel responsible?

Rabin: We are responsible. However, only to a certain extent. We cannot force anybody to stay in the police.

SPIEGEL: But can you at least protect the Palestinians who are ready to continue to cooperate with Israel?

Rabin: We will do our best. We now intervene more rapidly if, for instance, Arab officials in a village are threatened. So far, only two people were killed. One person was lynched, and in Jericho a policeman was assassinated.

SPIEGEL: Hundreds of others feel threatened.

RABIN: Maybe, maybe. We cannot protect everybody. That is just not possible.

SPIEGEL: Your strategy obviously is based on intensifying the pressure of suffering. Will that not provoke even more violence?

Rabin: I doubt it. Assessing the current situation, we, for the time being, will observe three principles: first, continuing our military presence on the same scale; second, arresting troublemakers and participants in violent demonstrations: third, taking economic measures against territories and villages that terrorists operate from.

SPIEGEL: You do not sell gasoline in the occupied areas. You have restricted the Palestinians' freedom of movement...

Rabin: They still have enough gasoline for their incendiary devices. We did not discontinue the sale. When several tankers were attacked, we stopped the supply for a week. There are no restrictions on rides from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israel. And to go to Jordan, the Palestinians have in the past also had to ask for a permit.

SPIEGEL: By sanctions and chicanery, you will only enhance the outrage.

Rabin: The riots have diminished. It is true, they will not end in 1 or 2 weeks, but we are patient. Many Palestinians have begun to realize that by violence they will achieve nothing at all.

SPIEGEL: But Israel's repression cannot create peace either.

Rabin: I do not intend to solve the problem by military means. My objective in the scope of my powers as defense minister is pacification of the situation.

SPIEGEL: In your view, what could a political solution be? For the moment it does not even seem to be possible to start peace talks at all.

Rabin: For decades very few Israelis believed peace with our Arab neighbors would be possible someday. That seemed to many of us to be a dream. But since 1979, there has been a precedence. If it was possible to conclude peace with Egypt, the country that led the Arab world in all the wars against Israel—why should it not be possible with others? Perhaps it will take longer than we wish, but eventually peace will be achieved.

SPIEGEL: The Israeli Government is in terrible disagreement about the way to do that.

Rabin: Israel's government is divided over the Shultz plan. We differ over the question regarding what the definitive settlement should be, in what framework negotiations should take place, and whether agreement can be achieved in one or two stages. We all share the belief that every attempt to impose on Israel an unacceptable solution would provoke violence.

SPIEGEL: Does that also mean that there can be no political negotiations before the revolt is smashed?

Rabin: I did not say that. We are now engaged in political talks to pave the way for peace negotiations. However, Jordan and Syria refuse to talk to us, as you know.

SPIEGEL: And you refuse to talk to the PLO.

Rabin: I have often met Palestinian leaders in the territories. I have met Palestinians who are close to the PLO, and others who prefer Jordan. My question to them was always: Are you ready to form a representative leadership for Palestinians living in the territories, that would be willing to negotiate with Israel? They always say: Are you mad? Do you want to see us dead? Do you remember what happened when Shultz intended to meet Palestinian spokesmen in East Jerusalem? The PLO threatened their lives.

SPIEGEL: But who do you intend to negotiate with?

Rabin: We have to negotiate peace with the Jordanians and Palestinians living in the territories—in a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation. That is also the U.S. position.

The Shultz initiative is based on three points: first, UN Resolution 242, which is firmly rejected by the PLO; second, a Jordanian- Palestinian joint representation, which is also rejected by the PLO; third, the renunciation of terror and violence. The PLO rejects that as well. So it has excluded itself as a partner.

SPIEGEL: What should the outcome of a peace conference be? The founding of an independent Palestinian state? Or the return of the occupied territories to Jordan?

Rabin: We all, the Labor Party and the Likud bloc, absolutely reject a third state between Israel and Jordan.

SPIEGEL: Even if it were a demilitarized state?

Rabin: It would never be demilitarized. If such a state were founded, the Soviets would be there the next day with a lot of weapons. We of the Labor Party believe the solution lies in peace with Jordan—as a Jordanian-Palestinian state. It could and should include parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

However, Israel's defense border would have to be on the Jordan River, and the areas west of the river would have to remain demilitarized. Then we would be ready for territorial compromise. But Israel will by no means return to the borders prior to the 6-day war, let alone divide Jerusalem again.

SPIEGEL: Your coalition partner, the Likud bloc, rejects the land for peace principle.

Rabin: In democracy, it is the majority that makes decisions.

SPIEGEL: Can the forthcoming elections bring about a clear decision?

Rabin: We hope so.

SPIEGEL: It looks more like a shift to the right of public opinion in Israel, which improves Likud's election chances.

Rabin: Whenever it comes to outrages and eruptions of hatred against Israel, an extreme reaction becomes unavoidable. The radical factions on each side encourage each other.

SPIEGEL: If Shamir wins the election and Israel clings to the occupied territories, could a situation arise comparable to that in Northern Ireland or even to that in South Africa?

Rabin: Comparsion with South Africa is absolutely inappropriate. Any Arab who is an Israeli citizen enjoys full political rights, having in addition the advantage of being exempted from military service. Thus, even if we were to annex those territories and offered citizenship to their population, a situation like in South Africa would not arise there. The Palestinians posses their own land in the West Bank and Gaza.

SPIEGEL: Nobody can seriously consider annexation. What the Likud wants is perpetuation of the status quo, which would be the worst solution.

Rabin: The status quo will ramain valid, for on the Arab side there is no readiness to sit down at the negotiating table.

SPIEGEL: That will not change as long as Israel sticks to its conditions. King Husayn has repeatedly stated that he did not even want to get the occupied territories back.

Rabin: We cannot impose peace upon the Arab states, and they cannot impose peace upon us either. Even the superpowers are not in a position to impose peace upon us or them. It takes just one to start a war, but both sides are necessary to make peace. When President al-Sadat came to Jerusalem in 1977, the Israeli people were convinced of his good will. Thus, peace was achieved without an international conference, just with the support of the U.S.

SPIEGEL: Israel's former foreign minister, Abba Eban, once expressed the opinion that the Arabs never let any opportunity slip. Could that apply to Israel now as well?

Rabin: I hope Israel will prove its preparedness to gain peace.

SPIEGEL: Mr Rabin, we thank you for this interview.

Shomron Says Relative Calm Still Insufficient

TA231948 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky during a tour of the Gush 'Ezyon area on 23 March—videotaped]

[Text] [Shomron] There is no magic trick to end the situation. The only solution will come through a combined, prolonged operation requiring a lot of patience. Such an operation will be founded on three major components: military power, localized punishment, and economic pressure. We have constantly taken action along the lines prescribed by these three elements and have intensified them, even though things really have been relatively quieter recently. Nevertheless, as far as we are concerned this is insufficient.

[Shlonsky] Do you think the quiet stems from the steps you have employed?

[Shomron] No doubt, because there is motivation and incitement to carry out extensive rioting. The fact that this is not the case is certainly related to our activity. Even so, the current situation does not satisfy us. We will constantly continue to take additional action to calm the area.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Pamphlet Distributors Captured

TA241111 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The police affairs minister has reported that the distributors of Pamphlet No 11, which was circulated in the territories earlier this week, have been apprehended. They are youths from East Jerusalem, Judaea, and Samaria.

Residents Offered Compensation

TA231238 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 88 p 3

[Report by Yitzhaq Ravyihya]

[Text] Two unusual pamphlets were distributed in the Gaza Strip yesterday: The first pamphlet, issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the territories, promises sums of money in dinars to various public sectors in the Gaza Strip affected by the events: 1,000 dinars (5,000 shekels) to each family whose relative has been shot and wounded or killed; 500 dinars (2,500 shekels) to each local policeman who resigned recently; 200 dinars (1,000 shekels) to each family with a relative under arrest.

The second pamphlet, signed by the Islamic Jihad, calls on the population in the Gaza Strip not to exploit the resignation of the policemen and not to break the law. The pamphlet warns that anyone who steals will have his hands cut off, and calls on the people to obey Islamic law.

The residents are called upon to obey traffic laws and not to throw stones at locally-owned vehicles.

Our correspondent has learned that two cases of rape were recently carried out in the Jabalyah neighborhood in Gaza. The family of the raped women complained to the Civilian Administration and the complaint was transferred to the police.

Pamphlet No 11 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which was distributed on Sunday, calls on the inhabitants of the territories to raise chickens and rabbits and grow vegetables in their gardens.

The inhabitants are also ordered to strictly boycott Israeli produce and prepare themselves for a prolonged uprising, "and therefore there is a need to cultivate home produce...."

Newspaper Closed for 1 Week

TA240951 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD has been closed for a week. In his capacity as interior minister, the prime minister issued the closure order after being convinced that the newspaper recently published items which could encourage activities harmful to public safety . The newspaper will be allowed to resume publication at the end of the month, our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports.

Printers To Obtain Licenses

TA240821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The commander of the Gaza Strip has ordered all printers in the area to be licensed by law and therefore subject to the regulations governing newspapers. The order bans all printers who do not have the required licenses from continuing to operate. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Gaza Strip printers have municipal licenses, but for many years were not required to obtain licenses from the Military Government.

Lawyer Arrested; Office Closed

TA231301 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Muhammad Shadid, a Tulkarm lawyer, has been placed under administrative arrest. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Shadid had defended youngsters charged with security violations and participation in riots.

The military government ordered the closure of the office of the municipal and government workers union in Tulkarm for 2 years. Our correspondent says that the Military Government has lately been closing down offices and clubs that are connected with the Al-Shabibah youth movement.

Budget Approved; Special Knesset Session Planned

TA240532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] With most Knesset members [MK's] absent, the house passed the budget law and the state budget law for fiscal 1988 in their final reading. The proposals were adopted by a majority of coalition votes. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 24 March adds that the budget approved by the Knesset amounts to approximately 47.8 billion shekels]

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that of all the coalition members, only Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar voted against the bill, while his fellow Alignment member Yitzhaq Peretz abstained. The cabinet was represented only by the finance minister, who sat through most of the hour-long debate, as well as through the vote. Given this state of affairs, MK Amnon Linn suggested that the vote not be held. His proposal was voted down.

This concluded the Knesset's winter session. It will, however, hold an extraordinary session next week for a political review by the prime minister.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Gandhi Statement

TA232025 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 mar 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem today condemned Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's statement that his country's tennis team will not come to Israel to participate in the Davis Cup. The pretext Gandhi gave for the ban on the team's departure for Israel was the situation in the territories.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned this announcement, and David Harnick, chairman of the Tennis Association, announced that Israel will firmly object to playing on a neutral court. He demanded that India be suspended from Davis Cup competition for 12 months, as is the usual practice in such cases.

India's demand will probably guarantee Israel a technical victory by default for its future Davis Cup matches.

Israeli Jets Carry Out Bomb Attacks on Sidon

10 Injured in Palestinian Camps

NC231545 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, March 23 (AFP)—Israeli jets staged two bombing raids Wednesday on areas east of this southern Lebanese port, injuring 10 people according to a provisional toll, Palestinian sources said.

Six Israeli fighter-bombers struck the 'Abrah region, 49 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Beirut, where positions held by Palestinian groups and training camps for Sunni Moslem fundamentalist militiamen are located.

The jets returned 20 minutes later as ambulances were rushing to the scene and bombed 'Abrah again, as well as the nearby communities of Wadi Majdalyun and Bqusta, according to Palestinian sources.

It was the third Israeli air strike on Lebanon in two weeks. Two people were killed and three were injured when the Israeli Air Force pounded Palestinian positions north of Beirut March 17.

An air raid March 12 on Palestinian targets east of Sidon left one person dead and one injured.

3 Raids Reported

NC231615 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out three air raids against Palestinian positions to the east and northeast of Sidon this afternoon. Israeli aircraft are currently carrying out reconnaissance missions over the Sidon area.

According to reports from the south, the first raid occurred at 1615 and was directed against positions in Duhur Majdalyun, 'Abrah al-Qadimah, the Maximus School area, Kafr Jarrah, and Shar-Habil. The raiding planes fired approximately 50 rockets during the raid and dropped thermal balloons to divert antiaircraft fire.

The second raid occurred at 1650 and was directed against positions held by Fatah—the Revolutionary Council and the Nayif Hawatimah-led DFLP, in the area northeast of Sidon.

Less than 25 minutes later, the Israeli aircraft renewed their raids and attacked Bqusta and 'Abrah.

It has been learned that ambulances are still evacuating the wounded.

'Source' Details Raids

NC231736 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A responsible military source in the Popular Liberation Army has commented on the three Israeli raids, saying that 10 Israeli aircraft attacked Army posts in the old town of 'Abrah, Majdalyun, and Bqusta. A great number of civilians, who rushed to aid the wounded, were injured in the raids. The source added that several buildings, used by the Popular Liberation Army as rear support positions on the Kafr Falus front, were destroyed.

7 Killed, 15 Injured

NC232139 Paris AFP in English 2125 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, March 23 (AFP)—Israeli jets staged three bombing raids on Palestinian positions east of here Wednesday, killing at least seven people and injuring 15 others, Palestinian sources said.

The attacks demolished three buildings and triggered an explosion and fire at a munitions dump, correspondents reported.

(An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv confirmed the raid, saying all planes had returned safely from what he said were successful attacks on facilities used by "terrorist organizations" to store vehicles and weapons.)

Three waves of Israeli fighters bombed bases held by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal, over a period of 30 minutes, Palestinian sources said.

Two children were among those hurt in the attacks aimed at targets in Wadi Majdalyun, Bqusta and Al-Salihiyah, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Beirut, they added. [passage omitted]

Raid Casualties Confirmed

NC240740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The Israeli air strike on the Kafr Falus front yesterday left 7 dead and 15 wounded. Three buildings were also demolished. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources said that the targets of the air raid were DFLP and Fatah Revolutionary Council positions on the outskirts of Al-Salihiyah, Majdalyun, Al-Hilaliyah, the old town of 'Abrah, Bqusta, and Wadi Karkha.

Israelis Resume Raids 24 Mar

NC241220 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1152 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to the latest reports from the south, the Israeli warplanes are still overflying Sidon in the wake of four raids against a number of armed positions.

Details of the raids are as follows: The first raid took place at 1255 against positions in 'Abra al-Qadimah, Bqusta, Al-Salihiyah, Majdalyun, and the hill adjacent to factory in Al-Salihiyah.

The second raid occurred at 1305 against the same positions, damaging the ambulances that rushed to the area. At 1310, the Israeli warplanes carried out a third raid against the same positions.

At 1320 the South Lebanese Army in Kafr Falus opened artillery fire on most of the positions east of Sidon.

Five minutes later, the Israeli warplanes conducted another raid, while [Israeli] gunboats bombarded all the positions, as well as the coastal road.

Israeli Gunboats Shell Targets

NC241235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1158 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have actually conducted five raids against positions east of Sidon.

At 1300, they raided areas east of Sidon, particularly the old town of 'Abrah, Al-Salihiyah, Bqusta, Majdalyun, and the hill near the cardboard factory. The warplanes raided the same positions at 1305 and 1310. The warplanes are still flying over the area. Ground resistance is firing at them.

At 1320, the enemy's artillery and that of its agents in Kafr Falus began shelling the same targets. Gunboats have also started bombarding the same positions. The warplanes repeated their raids for the fourth time at 1325 when the artillery and sea bombardment was continuing.

The warplanes carried out a fifth raid on the same positions at 1330, while the agents and enemy's artillery and gunboats continued to bombard the area.

Planes Continue Air Strikes

NC241226 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Reports just received from the south state that the Israeli planes renewed their raids against the positions they had bombarded earlier. The new raids occurred at 1345 and 1350.

5 More Casualties Reported

NC241240 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1221 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A formation of Israeli warplanes bombarded military targets in 'Abrah and areas surrounding it to the east of Sidon. The raids were directed at the same positions bombarded yesterday, and came at a time when rubble-clearing operations were continuing in search of missing persons.

According to available reports, four Israeli planes fired missiles at positions in 'Abrah and Majdalyun. The planes were confronted with ground defense fire.

According to a preliminary report, the bombardment resulted in five casualties. At the same time, Israeli gunboats were monitored off the coast between Khaldah and Al-Na'imah. Gunfire has been directed at the boats.

Training Center Targeted

NC241256 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1233 GMT24 Mar 88

[Text] The Israeli enemy resumed its attacks on areas and positions east of Sidon. The Israeli planes have been in the skies of the south since this morning, carried out a series of raids, beginning at 1300, against 'Abrah, Majdaylun, and Bqusta.

A security source has reported that Israeli gunboats also participated in the shelling of Palestinian and nationalist positions from 'Abrah as far as 'Ayn al-Mir. The raiding planes were confronted with intensive ground defense fire by the Popular Liberation Army and the Palestinian factions.

According to available information, fires broke out in the raided areas. Ambulances, civil defense, and fire-fighting vehicles hastened to carry out their duties

The criminal raids occurred in several waves at 1302, 1310, 1323, 1334, and 1345.

Palestinian sources said that the raids were directed at a Fatah—Revolutionary Council training center, where 30 fighters were training. The raids were also directed at PFLP and DFLP positions. The sources did not report losses.

Liberation Front Kills 2 Syrians in North

NC241000 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Front has announced that one of its groups assassinated two Syrian officers with an automatic weapon equipped with a silencer at the entrance of Al-Baddawi in the Tripoli area at 0800 today. The assassinated officers were riding in a white Peugeot 504 without license plates at the time of the attack.

Gunmen Ambush, Wound Ja'ja' Aide Near 'Amshit

NC231428 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] According to security sources in East Beirut, unidentified gunmen waylaid Antoine Rahmah, an aide of Phalangist Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja', and fired at him while he traveled on the coastal road in the 'Amshit area this morning. Rahmah was wounded and taken to Jubayl hospital for treatment, the sources added. [passage omitted]

PSP's Shuhayyib Meets Pro-'Arafat Palestinians

NC241548 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Our radio has learned that PSP Politburo member Akram Shuhayyib, acting on instructions from the Syrians, met yesterday with a number of 'Arafat supporters in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. Shuhayyib discussed with them the Palestinian presence east of Sidon.

The Palestinians rejected the notion of returning to their previous positions. They believe that their presence outside the camps serves them better than being crammed into specific areas, where they are vulnerable to Israeli strikes.

It has also been learned that the Palestinians asked Shuhayyib to help pro-'Arafat men obtain passes from the PSP that would get them through Syrian checkpoints. These checkpoints normally adopt tight measures against the Palestinians in the vicinity of the camps.

Soviet Cooperatives Delegation Arrives 23 Mar

NC231356 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] An economic cooperatives delegation from the Central Council of Soviet Cooperatives, led by (Konstantin Melnik), chairman of cooperatives in the Republic of Moldavia, arrived in Beirut at noon today from Moscow.

During the visit, which is in response to an invitation from the Consumer Cooperative Society, the members of the delegation will acquaint themselves with the preparations for the exhibition of Lebanese industrial products to be held in Moscow from 13 to 20 May.

New Consignment of MiG-29 Fighters Received

JN230803 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Beirut—AL-RA'Y—Reliable sources have said that Syria has obtained a new consignment of MiG-29 jet fighters. Syria received its first consignment of these planes 5 months ago. It is to be recalled that Iraq has also received a number of these planes, which have not yet entered into service. The MiG-29 is a fighter plane with two engines. It first entered service in the Soviet Army in 1984.

This plane, which has a range of 2,000 km, is of a strategic nature. It can carry six air-to-air missiles and is as effective as the U.S. F-16 plane. Observers believe Syria's obtaining of these planes may have a strategic effect on the region.

'Sources' Say Damascus Will Not Receive Habib

NC210603 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR cites what it calls reliable sources as saying that Damascus has refused to receive U.S. envoy Philip Habib. The sources attribute the refusal to a previous experience with Habib that occurred during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. At the time, Habib did not honor his pledge to Syrian officials concerning Israel's withdrawal from the south, the same sources added.

Talas Accuses Iraqi Leader of U.S. Ties

PM220915 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
7 Mar 88 p 1, 10

[Editorial by General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister: "Revolution...Permanent Spring"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I said earlier we would speak in a loud voice. On this basis and with full awareness, I ask on this occasion: Let us Arabs imagine: What would the contemporary history of Arabs be like without Hafiz al-Asad?

Immediately after the October war the United States felt, before its own Arabs or the other Arabs, that there was something momentous in Syria assigning itself to a heroic man.

The momentous thing is a current characterized by pan-Arab awareness—a current shouldering the burdens of the Arab nation and devoting itself to leading the Arab nation so it can restore the process of civilization, serve both security and peace, and secure a happy life for the nation's generations and mankind as a whole. [passage omitted]

To tell the truth, at the beginning of the last third of the 20th century we all were dazzled by the outstanding intelligence of Henry Kissinger, whom we considered, despite his Israelism, to be the man of the 20th century. After all, was it not on his ingenuity that books were written, speeches delivered, and more than 7,000 articles published in papers and magazines?

We prayed to God to give our president the strength to face this cunning man. It was not we but Henry Kissinger who discovered that the president had defeated him. After which he said: Mr President, I thank God you are not the head of a major European state or else you would have troubled the United States.

Now, 14 years later, we say to Henry Kissinger: It is our president who is troubling the United States and its George Shultz.

Was it not Secretary of State George Shultz who formulated the 17 May agreement making Lebanon an Israeli protectorate? And was it not Hafiz al-Asad who tore up that agreement and threw it in his face?

Shultz swore he would not visit Damascus or its Hafiz al-Asad, who dealt him a blow he will remember for the rest of his life. But after the uprising of our people in the occupied homeland and in view of the storm of stones—which represent the Palestinian revolution more than the dollars owned by those moving between Tunis, Cairo, and Zimbabwe, who trade in a symbol of victory which we cannot see—it was proved to Shultz, or he calculated, that if he visited the region without visiting Damascus he might as well stay in Washington. [passage omitted]

We Arabs wonder, as we talk about Shultz, why we do not ask Mubarak in the same way as Al-Mutanabbi [Arab poet] asked Kafur [ancient figure]: How could your ideas have been similar, Mr President? How, in your stillborn initiative, can you equate slings with tanks? And on whom do you rely for your initiative, which urges a 6-month halt to violence and to settlement operations? Did you not hear Shamir say on the same day Israel will not stop building settlements? And why did you take your crippled initiative to Washington: Did you not know the United States and Israel are as one?

Why did you not learn from Bashir al-Jumayyil, who asked Menahem Begin to treat him as a head of state! He replied exactly: To me you are the equivalent of a (servant) at the Nahariyya Hotel. I ask you: Why do you hate Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir? Why are you trying his son Khalid on a charge that honors prophets, while you remain free?

Talking of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, hero and son of a hero, he requested permission to go to Iraq, away from the present atmosphere in Egypt. But Saddam did not respond to his request. And how could he respond to it,

when it was Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir who unmasked Saddam and his links with U.S. intelligence when he was a failing student at the Law Faculty of Cairo University.

True, 'Abd al-Nasir told me that at his home in Manshiyat al-Bakri in February 1970. I conveyed that to the letter to President al-Asad, who told me: I pray to God that this information is incorrect, because I cannot imagine any Arab official or politician as an agent for the intelligence of a foreign state, especially when he is on our borders. But Henry Kissinger referred to this fact indirectly when he was talking to Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam after Saddam had signed the borders agreement with the shah in 1975. Kissinger told Khaddam: President Hafiz al-Asad must not be too rigid with Israel, because he will not be comfortable on his eastern borders after this agreement!

A year later Saddam deployed six armored division on the eastern borders on the pretext of preparing to liberate Palestine! Al-Asad was aware of that dirty game. He issued the necessary orders to me and within 60 hours we deployed two armored divisions, a motorized brigade, and a number of antitank units. God was on Syria's and Al-Asad's side. Those who know the facts realize that all the tragedies being experienced today by the oppressed Iranian people were in fact planned and prepared originally for Syria. True, Almighty God spared Syria this disaster to unmask Saddam and his cunning to the world and entrust Syria with the main role in the conflict with our prime enemy, Israel.

Who other than Al-Asad has revealed the secrets of the war imposed on both the Iranian and Iraqi peoples by the United States. If the Arab nation followed the line defined by the United States and its agent, Saddam, and then resorted to enmity against the Persian nation, how many years would we need to settle this conflict? But rather how many months or days would Israel need to occupy Baghdad or any place other than Baghdad?

It was crystal-clear that the Iranian Army, having rid itself of the shah, would be the rear of the Syrian Army, but the United States rode its horse, Saddam, to obstruct this revolutionary army, which is equipped with a belief that could move mountains and indeed could crack Israel's foundation. [passage omitted]

And I recall a story for the sake of history: On 16 June 1979, before we traveled to Baghdad accompanying President al-Asad to sign a unity charter, one officer came up to me and said: Your book "Selections" is ready for distribution, but I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the final chapter contains serious things about Saddam; it says he works according to instructions from U.S. intelligence; I do not believe there would be any harm in withdrawing the final chapter of the book! My answer was: Leave everything as it is. The officer looked astonished and said: Sir, I do not understand: You are going with the president to sign a unity agreement with Saddam while condemning him. I told him: The matter is very simple. If Saddam signs the unity charter, I will be ready to destroy all 5,000 copies, not just one chapter. However, my inner feelings tell me that Saddam is not serious in his theatricals regarding Arab unity.

And we returned from Baghdad empty-handed. Saddam resorted to procrastination—in contrast to Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, who had unity flowing in his veins. That is why a weak declaration was signed, with which Al-Asad was not satisfied. Aboard the plane on our way back to Damascus, Al-Asad looked deeply saddened; all the comrades in the delegation sensed that. The president said: By God, on my way to Baghdad I prayed from the bottom of my heart that the information I received on Saddam would be untrue. I told him: But President Jamal confirmed this to me and here you are experiencing it both directly and indirectly.

A month after Al-Asad's return from Baghdad, specifically on 17 July 1979, Saddam toppled Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr in Iraq and assumed direct command, unleashing his spite against Syria. And all this for the sake of the master, the United States.

And in order for Saddam to find a justification for severing relations with Syria, he fabricated a big lie, namely that President al-Asad was trying to topple the regime in Baghdad. On 29 July 1979, and without a trial, he executed 5 ministers, 30 comrades who were members of their conference [as published], and 82 officers of various ranks. All these lost their lives because they believed Saddam was serious regarding the issue of unity with Syria and so expressed their feelings, and nothing more. After the Amman summit, Al-Asad asked Saddam: Do you still believe the lie you fabricated? He replied arrogantly: Yes. I am more convinced about it. [passage omitted]

Voice of Iraq Views Saddam's Role in Defeats

JN231427 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The fall of Halabjah, Khurmal, and 100 other towns and villages in a few days, in adidtion to the taking of 4000 prisoners of war in a brief battle, raises many questions regarding Saddam Husayn's direct role in this disaster. These questions are based on measures taken by dictator Saddam Husayn shortly before the fall of Halabjah and other Iraqi cities. It is useful to recall these meassures to see the tyrant's direct role in the catastrophe. These measures were as follows:

1. The appointment by tyrant Saddam Husayn of his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid as absolute ruler of Kurdistan and the forcing of military leaderships in the region to receive their orders from him on all issues.

2. Saddam Husayn's killing of Lieutenant General 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibrahim al-Hadithi, commander of the V Army Corps, and a group of high-ranking officers by arranging the crash of the helicopter in which the general and his officers were flying on their way back from the presidential palace. It is worth mentioning that this crime was clear even before its occurrence. Several months before General al-Hadithi's death, the opposition newspaper RISALAT AL-IRAQ referred to the possibility fo the general being assassinated or executed following the escalation of a conflict between him and the tyrant's cousin, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and the latter's intervention. These disagreements reached the presidential palace.

3. Saddam Husayn's issuance of a large number of transfer orders affecting officers in the northern region following his murder of Lt Gen 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hadithi and the accompaning officers. The transfers were made at random and based on the tyrant's suspicions. They continued until just before the fall of Halabjah and other cities.

Brothers in Iraq, the random measures taken by the tyrant, his deadly interventions, and those of his cousin have negatively affected the officeers and soldiers. The results of these negative effects were demonstrated in the first battle. If we add to this the major fact that the soldiers and officers disagree with this war and its objectives in the first place, then one can see the direct and actual role of Saddam in the fall of more than 100 towns and villages and the capture of more than 4,000 military men in a short time. This has never been seen before.

While acknowledging Saddam's political responsibility for this war, its results, as well as his ignorance and haughtiness which are characteristic of him, have led to military defeats that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of soldiers and the fall of scores of Iraqi cites. In the past, the issue reached a stage where Saddam's allies, especially the United States, advised him through the media not to interfere in military issues and to leave them to professionals.

Two years ago, we followed on our station the incidents that coincided with and preceeded those orders and advice. But the tyrant, who wanted a larger disaster and to stick his nose in what he did not understand, interfered in this manner in professional military affairs and took it upon himself to direct battles on the telephone from his comfortable office.

By referring to the dictator's direct responsibility in recent events, we are saying the main cause of the defeat lies in the fact this war and its objectives are not supported by the officers and soldiers. Everyone knows its continuation and destructive bleeding does not help our people, country, or nation. The only way to rid ourselves of this catastrophe is by geting rid of the one who started this war and led Iraq into this dark and dangerous tunnel.

Paper Cited on Israeli Threats to Saudi Arabia

JN221548 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA)—In a comment today the newspaper TISHRIN says when Syria adopted its firm principled stand on the Arab central cause, it stemmed from a strong belief in the justice of this cause and the savagery of the Zionist colonialist onslaught against the Arab nation. The paper explains that the true dimensions of the Zionist danger were revealed in the statements which the leaders of the Zionist entity were quick to make against fraternal Saudi Arabia because it has sought, like any other country in the world, to have some means to defend and protect the homeland.

TISHRIN affirms that Syria, which has considered any attack against fraternal Saudi Arabia an attack on itself, has acted from an absolute sense of pan-Arab responsibility in two areas: confronting Zionist aggression against any Arab territory and wherever it threatens Arab national security on one hand and supporting the Arabs in their right to defend themselves, no matter how critical or simple the circumstances, on the other.

The paper concludes: Syria is not saying anything new when it declares that the security of any Arab state, including Saudi Arabia, is part of the security of Syria and that any aggression against any of these states is an aggression against Syria. The issue here concerns Arab national security, of which Saudi Arabia is a basic pillar.

AL-BA'TH Urges Arab Unity Against U.S. Policy

PM231411 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 17 Mar 88 p 6

[Jibarah al-Barghuthi article: "Continuing U.S. Support for Israel"]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has summed up his administration's plans and initiatives in the Middle East in just one sentence, which is: Israel can be confident of U.S. backing now and in the future and can trust that the United States will not pressure it into accepting anything not to its liking.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has confirmed, following two meetings with Zionist government head Yitzhaq Shamir, that the U.S.-Israeli relationship is too close to be affected by partial differences in viewpoints and that the United States cannot subject Israel to anything it dislikes.

Even the U.S. congressional committee which passed a bill condemning Israel's policy abandoned that condemnation. There remains not a single U.S. official organization that has not given Shamir peace of mind and tranquillity and given its blessing to all it sees as benefiting Israel and its security.

We are not saying here that the pressure of the Zionist organizations is behind this concord between the U.S. and Israeli administrations, because U.S. Jewish organizations have condemned and are still condemning the Zionist policy of repression against the Arabs of the occupied homeland.

It reaffirms once again that the aim of U.S. moves has been, and still is, to tie the Middle East region to the U.S. concept and make the Arabs dependent on the United States for getting them something from its ally, Israel. The U.S. State Department will inevitably announce it is unable to convince Shamir and that the Arabs have to come forward with concessions so that perhaps Shamir may be convinced and so on. The U.S. game continues and the Arab concessions continue; by this approach the courageous uprising in occupied Palestine loses its potency by its loss of confidence in the Arab milieu.

What is truly odd is that the Arabs are waiting for their enemy to settle their case. The unity party is not a neutral party in the Arab-Zionist conflict and never will be. Israel does not lack a strategy, even though some Arabs wish it were so. Shamir and Sharon's declarations do not differ from what pleases Peres and Rabin. They are all in favor of establishing Greater Israel, even if they differ on the means to get them there.

As long as the Arabs do not have political and military power, they will not get a settlement, nor even a partial settlement.

In the face of all this, the political step will beget the military step. The United States, which does not consider the burying of Arabs alive terrorism nor the breaking of bones terrorism and does not recognize the existence of Palestine, or the Palestinian people, and is fighting the United Nations, violating international law in order to please Israel—that United States will cease to be victorious over the Arabs only when the Arabs have a unified voice against the United States.

Whoever claims the United States has no power over Israel has the wrong idea and whoever claims Israel acts without U.S. knowledge also has the wrong idea. The United States is Israel's financial, military, and political prop; when the United States says no, Israel responds.

So the Arab war is not just against the United States, but also against U.S. imperialism. And that is how the Arabs will secure their rights and how their dignity, lost in the wilderness of U.S. settlements, will be fortified.

Damascus Radio on U.S. 'Solidarity' With Israel

JN231309 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yitzhaq Shamir has returned following a visit to the United States. He held talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and other U.S. officials. In his statements following his return he assumed the poise of a victor and assured his supporters and his partners in government that the United States will not put pressure on his government to accept the Shultz Middle East initiative and that U.S.-Israeli relations will not at all be affected by any factor including differences of views over Shultz' proposals.

Moreover, Shamir bragged that no Middle East peace plan will succeed unless it is a U.S.-Israeli plan.

The statements made by U.S. officials prior to and during Shamir's visit give the man of terrorism, racism, and aggression the right to boast about returning victorious from the United States. Such statements include U.S. confirmation that relations with Israel have not been affected by any factor or any differences in views over Shultz' proposals.

Shamir's stands and policies are not new. They are well-known. They are summarized in the noes rejecting peace and rejecting any just and peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. Foremost among these noes are: no to the international conference; no to the Palestinian state; no to the PLO; no to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory; no to the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

There is also nothing new in the U.S. Government's solidarity with the rulers of Israel in their expansionist policy of aggression. It is supplying them with the material, military, and political capabilities that enable them to continue that policy and defy the international community, its conventions, laws, and resolutions.

What is new is that the United States, which claims to adhere to Shultz' proposals, is at the same time adhering to the Israeli rejection of these proposals. This imparts to Shultz' mission, proposals, and the memoranda of understanding he presented an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion and confirms doubts that in its moves the U.S. Administration does not aspire to achieve a just and comprehensive solution but is trying to render assistance to the Israeli rulers who are facing a real dilemma as a result of the popular uprising against Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territory.

It is Israel that has attacked others. It is Israel that is occupying the territory of others. It is Israel that is denying the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination. It is Israel that has used and is using force

to impose its will on others. It is Israel that declares—in the words of Shamir following his return from Washington—that it has territorial ambitions in the territory of others, in the name of Greater Israel, as Shamir called it.

Any just solution to the region's conflict must be based on urging the rulers of Israel to return what they have usurped, forfeit what they have robbed, free those they have detained, and to respect the conventions, laws, and resolutions they have violated.

How can the U.S. Administration reconcile its insistence on supporting Israel materially, morally, and militarily and its solidarity with the rulers of Israel with the claim that Shultz' proposals aim to bring about a comprehensive solution, a just settlement, and an objective approach to the question of the Palestinians' legitimate rights—as U.S. officials call them. It is impossible to reconcile achieving justice with rewarding the aggressor for his aggression.

With its proposals the U.S. Administration wants to award the Israeli aggressor for his aggression and to help that aggressor in overcoming his present dilemma and to give him the opportunity to rest to resume his terrorist and expansionist policy of aggression against the Arabs and against peace in the region and does not want a genuine and comprehensive peace. This divests Shultz' proposals of any seriousness or credibility.

One cannot have the two opposites: Either the U.S. Administration is for a just and comprehensive peace or it supports the stand of the Israeli rulers which is hostile to and conflicts with a just and comprehensive peace. The two stands cannot be reconciled, except at the expense of peace and justice. In all likelihood the United States is not for a solution that leads to a just and comprehensive peace, but is for a solution that has glittering headlines and leads to Arab capitulation to Israel and to submitting to U.S. hegemony over the region.

Shultz' proposals mention an international conference, but do not answer the question on the powers of that conference, its role, and the role of the permanent member-states of the Security Council. The proposals mention the legitimate rights of the Palestinians but do not make it clear if such a mention means the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. Shultz' proposals mention the representation of the Palestinians in the conference but do not state that the Palestinians have the right to choose their representatives in the conference themselves.

The words of the U.S. rulers are totally different from their actions. They distort even the words, expressions, and terms respected by the international community, such as liberty, human rights, and justice. The only consistent thing in the policy of the U.S. rulers is to tie U.S. interests to Israeli interests. That does not serve peace, but puts the United States in a position hostile to the Arabs and hostile to the interests of real peace.

Afghanistan

Government-Soviet Troops Break Siege of Urgun

BK231552 Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Mar 23 (AFP)—A Soviet-Afghan force has broken a three-year rebel siege of Urgun in eastern Afghanistan, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported Wednesday. There had been heavy fighting inside the town since Saturday when a Soviet-Afghan convoy of some 600 tanks and trucks had finally fought its way to Urgun after suffering heavy losses on the road from Ghazni, AIP said. The mujahidin killed 83 Soviet and Afghan troops and destroyed 42 tanks and military vehicles as the convoy spent six weeks covering the 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Ghazni, AIP said, putting guerrilla casualties at 13 dead and 25 wounded.

The mujahidin had heavily mined the road, Western diplomats said here. The convoy left Ghazni in mid-February to re-supply the town, cut off in a region virtually under mujahidin control in eastern Afghanistan. Resistance sources confirmed that Soviet and Afghan troops had reached Urgun, adding that there was heavy fighting inside the town. The Soviet-Afghan breakthrough to Urgun followed a similar operation to re-supply the larger garrison town of Khowst in January, which had been under rebel siege for eight years, observers said. The Soviet-Afghan relief force later withdrew back down the road from Khowst, observers noted.

The operation to re-supply Urgun was part of a plan to keep the mujahidin off balance in the run-up to an expected Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, they added. AIP also reported that mujahidin guerrillas had captured two posts in Shagah in Paktia Province bordering Pakistan, inflicting heavy casualties. In Nangarhar Province, guerrillas had captured four military posts in the past two weeks, killing about 110 Soviet and Afghan troops, AIP said. The guerrillas lost 14 men in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Soviet-Mujahidin 'Secret Negotiations' Reported

LD221350 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1157 GMT 22 Mar 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Islamabad, March 22 (TANJUG)—Afghan mujahidin and Soviet representatives held secret negotiations in some West European countries in recent months, claims the usually well-informed Peshawar daily THE FRONTIER POST. It adds that an agreement on the exchange of prisoners was reached at one of the secret meetings, in West Germany late last year. Meanwhile, since fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hikmatyar last week came at the head of the Islamic Unity of Mujahidin of Afghanistan, the insurgents' militancy has greatly increased—at least in words.

Hikmatyar has recently warned Moscow that the Soviet troops will be unable to "honourably withdraw from Afghanistan" unless the Soviet Union makes it possible to form an interim government in Kabul. He said that in case of a Soviet unilateral decision on withdrawal if the Geneva negotiations fail, the mujahidin will continue to attack the Soviet troops during the withdrawal.

Ahmad Shah Discusses Provisional Government

JN211155 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 17 Mar 88 p 19

[Interview with Ahmad Shah, head of the provisional Afghan mujahidin government, by Ahmad Mansur; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mansur] Has the provisional mujahidin government been fully formed now? What have you done with regard to choosing some government members from among Afghans living within Afghanistan now?

[Shah] The formation of a mujahidin government was among the important topics we have been discussing for several months in the Alliance Assembly [Shura Ittihad]. Finally, we agreed it was necessary to set up a mujahidin government that would assume power in Afghanistan after the Soviets withdraw or were driven out of Afghanistan. This government would replace the existing communist government in Afghanistan. The government comprises 28 ministers in addition to the head of the government. Fourteen ministers will be from the mujahidin, seven from exiles living outside Pakistan, and seven Muslim Afghans living inside Afghanistan. With regard to the latter one must make it clear that we will not accept any communist in this government. Therefore, all these ministers must be known to be good Muslims and should not have played any part in harming Afghanistan.

These are the proposals we made and completed with regard to the provisional government which, God willing, will replace the present Kabul government. Perhaps we will announce the details later, God willing.

[Mansur] What are the most important problems which the mujahidin government will tackle after its proclamation?

[Shah] The primary purpose for the establishment of the mujahidin government is to proclaim to the whole world that we represent the Afghan people. The mujahidin now control more than 80 percent of Afghan territory, and that is acknowledged by both friends and foes. It is not only Afghan territory that is under our control. The entire Afghan people support the mujahidin. Communist Party members now ruling Afghanistan do not number more than 5,000, including ministers, governors, and other officials. The remainder of the people, although they are ruled by them, support and stand by the mujahidin.

If the Soviets leave Afghanistan and leave the Afghan people to determine their destiny themselves the communist government will not remain in power a single day. As soon as the Soviets announced they will begin to withdraw on 15 May, scores, indeed hundreds, of government supporters began joining the mujahidin daily. The joining of the mujahidin ranks recently by Sadiqullah, Najibullah's brother, is clear evidence of the prestige which the mujahidin enjoy among the Afghan people.

We have said to the United Nations, the Pakistani Government, and to the entire world: Let the Afghan people choose their rulers themselves. UN resolutions state that any people should determine their own future and destiny. The Afghan people are a Muslim people, and all of them support the mujahidin. Why is a minority being allowed to control the destiny of the Afghan people, killing them and making them homeless outside their country for the past 10 years.

Therefore, the first problem we will address will be the elimination of the existing puppet government in Afghanistan.

[Mansur] How is the mujahidin government now carrying out its activities?

[Shah] Our first preoccupation is the withdrawal of the Soviets. Once that is achieved our task is to prepare for an alternative inside Afghanistan. Perhaps the first problem after that is the problem of the refugees who now number more than 5 million. How will they return to their country when their homes have been destroyed, their fields have been burned, their animals have died, and they have no means of livelihood in Afghanistan? There is no life there as most of the villages are deserted.

The necessary arrangements made to enable the refugees to return to their homes, and a means of livelihood must be provided for them. Of course that can only take place under a government which they want, a mujahidin government. If the present communist government remains, the refugees would prefer to die in Pakistan and Iran rather than live 1 hour under a communist government.

[Mansur] It is clear from what you said that the problems of the refugees in particular are not easy. Will you need assistance in the coming stage from Muslim or international organizations and bodies?

[Shah] Undoubtedly. Our first need is political. We want them to recognize the mujahidin government as the legitimate representative of the Afghan people. That is the most important thing because recognition of the mujahidin government will reassure the refugees, for if they are not reassured about who will be ruling them they, as I have said, would rather die of hunger then return to Afghanistan under the existing communist regime.

However, a plot is now being hatched against the Afghan struggle. They say the Soviets are the root of the problem and will leave, and consequently there is no justification for the refugees to remain outside the country, and there is no justification for the mujahidin to continue to carry arms. However, they ignore the fact that we did not carry arms to expel the Soviets, for we began our struggle against the communist government before the Soviets' entry. Had it not been for the Soviet intervention, the communist government would not have been able to continue confronting us. Our cause is to eliminate the entire communist rule from Muslim Afghanistan.

We call on the whole world to cut off aid to the communist government in Kabul, and to try to remove that minority from the position of ruling over the majority. We call on the Muslim world first, and then on the entire world, to recognize the mujahidin government, for that is our legitimate and legal right. After that we must arrange for the refugees' return. A three-member committee of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United Nations may then be formed to list all the villages that have been burned or destroyed and to list all those who used to live in these villages prior to their flight, and then arrange for their return by finding homes for them or setting up temporary tents until the construction of houses is completed. Undoubtedly that is difficult and hard and requires the support of the Muslim world as well as international charity organizations.

I reiterate that the most important thing is that the mujahidin and the refugees must be spiritually and psychologically reassured, and that can happen only when the government that represents them is in power, a government that will overcome the obstacles. Overcoming these obstacles will then be much easier than at present. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] Do you believe the Soviets are serious in the declaration of their intent to withdraw from Afghanistan?

[Shah] We do not believe they are serious in wanting to leave Afghanistan. They realize they control only a very small area of Afghanistan, and that they are supporting a minority and not the majority. Why then do they not leave our country to us?

Their lack of seriousness can also be seen in their deception with regard to their departure. When they announced the intent to withdraw, Gorbachev and Shevardnadze said they would have no connection with the future government of Afghanistan which will be formed after their withdrawal. However, when the mujahidin declared that they would form a provisional government that will govern after the alleged Soviet withdrawal, they rejected it. They say they do not want a mujahidin or any other provisional government. That indicates they want to maintain the pro-Soviet government and they will protect it.

[Mansur] What is the next step for the mujahidin and their government if the Pakistani Government signs the present Geneva accords?

[Shah] Whether Pakistan signs or not, the Geneva talks are not in the mujahidin's interests. We have repeatedly declared our stand on the talks. We announced to the world that the agreement that will be signed in Geneva is not in the mujahidin's interest. We declared to the Pakistani Government 4 years ago and to the whole world that the mujahidin will not abide by these accords, and will not endorse the talks as long as they are not a party to them, and that any resolutions or commitments signed by any states or sides on a matter that concerns our cause is unacceptable to us as long as we are not a party to them.

[Mansur] Have the mujahidin's battles inside Afghanistan been affected by current political developments?

[Shah] These developments have had a positive effect on the mujahidin inside Afghanistan. Their attacks on and battles against the Soviets and the government forces have increased. There are fierce battles going on in many areas. The mujahidin do not have high hopes in the political solutions that are now being put forward because they know the Soviets and their designs. They know that the Soviets will not leave Afghanistan except through a struggle. Therefore, the mujahidin will further intensify their attacks until they compel the Soviets to leave by force and not by negotiations. [passage omitted]

Rebel Leader Condemns Iraqi Chemical Attacks

LD221102 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA—Head of the Afghan mujahidin's Islamic Unity Ghazi Muhammad Amin Waqad condemned Iraqi missile and air raids on Iranian residential areas and declared his party's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a message to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday he said the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's air and missile attacks on Iranian cities started when the Afghan issue was being discussed in Geneva according to the prior agreement of the two superpowers to make a deal on the issue.

The message noted that the Iraqi missile and air attacks on the holy city of Qom and Tehran were initiated on the order of the Soviet Union and the U.S. to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to compromise on the issue of Afghanistan.

In conclusion, head of the Afghan mujahidin's Islamic Unity condoled the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni and the resistant people of Iran on the martyrdom of Iranian civilians.

Mujahidin Conditions for Soviet Withdrawal

PM181125 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mujahidin Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Seven Organizations Have United Position Toward Negotiations With Soviets"]

[Text] London—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources from among Afghan mujahidin ranks have revealed that a Soviet offer to reinstate former King of Afghanistan Muhammad Zahir Shah, currently residing in Italy, as head of the country has recently found acceptance with the United States.

In a telephone conversation with them in Peshawar these sources have said that the three mujahidin leaders—'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, and Muhammad Yunis Khalis—stated to Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq in their meeting with him at the end of last week that they have no objection to starting a dialogue with the Soviet Union in order to arrange measures for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, and that it is illogical for negotiations on Afghanistan to continue in Geneva between Pakistan and the present Kabul government without them.

The sources have pointed out that Yunis Khalis spoke on behalf of all the mujahidin when he met with the UN secretary general's envoy Cordovez during the latter's visit to Pakistan. The sources said that initially the mujahidin refused to speak with Cordovez because of UN disregard for mujahidin representation in the current negotiations. However, they asked Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to make that possible.

Cordovez asked Khalis for clarification on the mujahidin's position on the matter of settling the Afghan issue. The answer he heard, in a nutshell, was that the Soviets must withdraw by the same route they came into the country. If they are asking for guarantees to safeguard their withdrawal, then the mujahidin will take it on themselves to provide them.

The Afghan sources pointed out that any results that may ensue from the current negotiations between Pakistan and the Soviets or the present Kabul government do not commit the Afghans to anything. On the contrary, the fighting will be stepped up and the attacks against the occupying and agent forces will increase all over Afghanistan. The sources confirmed the united stand of the seven Afghan organizations in this matter, and pointed out that a decision to form a provisional government headed by Engineer Ahmad Shah was taken unanimously.

The mujahidin sources did not think it unlikely that the Pakistani Government would agree to exchange memorandums and to sign the Geneva agreement with the Soviets on the basis that the Soviet withdrawal would

take place from Afghanistan and that the present government would remain in power. But according to what they said it would not frustrate the mujahidin's determination to continue their fight until an Islamic state is established.

Najibullah Receives CSSR Trade Delegation
LD201255 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 0700 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Afghanistan—The leading representative, Najibullah, received in Kabul a delegation of the Central Council of Trade Unions, headed by Ivan Gonko, the Council's first deputy chairman and chairman of the Slovak Council of Trade Unions. He informed the guests about the continuing realization of national reconciliation and expressed appreciation for the support being given to this process by Czechoslovak Trade Unions and all the people. Ivan Gonko expressed support for the efforts for the fastest possible end to the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

RSFSR Agriculture Delegation Arrive for Talks
LD182315 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] A high-ranking delegation from Orenburg Oblast in the RSFSR, led by Zavirovich, first deputy head of agriculture industry of Orenburg oblast, who recently arrived in Kabul to give financial, professional, and technical assistance to the irrigation complex in Jalalabad, met today with Ghulam Faruq Kobakiwal, minister of agriculture and land reform, and with Muhammad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation and water resources, in their offices.

During these meetings all-round talks were held on technical and economic assistance by Orenburg Oblast to Nagarhar Province and the irrigation complex in Jalalabad with regard to agriculture and irrigation.

Meets With Najibullah
LD240642 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0416 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 23, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan received the delegation of the Russian Soviet Federative Republic in his office on Tuesday. During the meeting matters on expansion of direct cooperation between Orenburg Region of the Russian Soviet Federative Republic and Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan were discussed.

Revolutionary Council Approves Election Law
LD190645 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 18, OANA-BAKHTAR—The periodical session of the Revolutionary Council of the Republic of Afghanistan was held here with the participation of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, on Thursday. The session unanimously approved the draft of the law on elections to the National Assembly of Afghanistan in eight chapters and fifty eight articles. The session of the Revolutionary Council also approved the socio-economic development plan and the draft budget of the Republic of Afghanistan for the new Afghan year starts March 21, 1988. The international treaties were also assessed by the participants of the session.

The session of the Revolutionary Council approved the treaties of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Afghanistan and People's Republic of Kampuchea and a statute on consular relations between Afghanistan and Vietnam which were earlier signed during the visit of the high-ranking delegation of the Republi of Afghanistan headed by President Najibullah to these countries.

The same day, the president of Afghanistan signed the Law on Elections to the National Assembly. President Najibullah issued a decree on the formation and composition of a Central Commission for holding elections to the National Assembly.

Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan was appointed chairman of the 33-member election commission. Mir Saheb Karwal, representative of the PDPA; Bashir Baghlani, representative of the Revolutionary Organisation of the Working People of Afghanistan (ROWPA); Dr. Dehzad, representative of the Organisation of the Working People of Afghanistan (OWPA); 'Abdul Hakim Tawana, representative of the Peasants Justice Party; 'Abdul Satar Serat, representative of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan were appointed deputy chairmen of the commission.

Nazar Muhammad Sarmand was appointed secretary of the commission. Nine chairs as members of the Central Commission and one chair as deputy chairman of the Central Commission are kept vacant for the representatives of the opposition.

Correction to National Assembly Elections Law

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Election Law for National Assembly Published," published in the 23 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, on page 40:

First column, last paragraph, from end of last sentence should read ...by direct ballot.

Article 4

Two members of provincial councils or equivalent administrative units are elected to the Senate by the councils for a period of 3 years. The remaining one-third will be appointed by the president. (supplying omitted passage)

Same column, second paragraph, from end of last sentence should read ...of their inhabitants.

Article 6

The delegates and senators mentioned in Article 5 of this law will be elected for 5-year terms.

Article 7

The election of... (supplying omitted passage)

India

Parliament Passes Punjab Emergency Powers Bill

BK231608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Parliament has given its approval to the Constitution 59th amendment bill. The Lok Sabha adopted the measure today amidst a walkout by the opposition. The voting was 328 in its favor and 65 against. The Rajya Labha had already passed the bill which seeks to empower the government to promulgate emergency in Punjab on the ground of internal disturbance and extend president's rule in the state by another 2 years. Several amendments moved by the opposition were rejected by the House.

Replying to the discussion, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, stoutly defended the bill as absolutely necessary to strengthen the unity and the integrity of the country. He expressed the government's determination to wipe out terrorism from Punjab and said it will not hesitate to take the sternest of measures to fight extremist and separatist forces in the state.

The home minister urged the opposition to rise above narrow party considerations and cooperate with the government to solve the Punjab problem. Stating that the government will do everything possible to restore normalcy in Punjab, he assured the House that the emergency provision in the bill will be used in Punjab only if need be and that too in emergency situation. He regretted that the opposition is trying to mislead the people as if the government plans to impose emergency throughout the country. He made it clear that this enabling provision will apply only to Punjab.

About the dissolution of the state assembly, he said this became inevitable whep various factions of the Akali Dal failed to come together. Referring to the opposition criticism about the bill, the home minister pointed out that even during the 44th amendment of the Constitution during the Janata rule, Article 355 about the center's duty to protect the states from external and internal disturbance was not removed. This shows that even the Janata government at that time conceded that such a contingency to deal with internal disturbance may arise. [passage omitted]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference

LD241254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Our first report deals with a radio, television and press conference, to which we draw your attention.

During this conference, attended by domestic and foreign reporters, 'Ali Akhbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, referred to the importance of the victorious Val-Fajr 10 operations. He said: One particular feature of the Val-Fajr 10 operations is the fact that this is the first Islamic Republic of Iran operation during which a very large inhabited area of Iraq has been captured while the people remained in the town and the people of the captured regions were totally loyal to, and welcomed, the victorious forces.

The Islamic Majlis speaker added: Throughout the course of the war, these cities have been within firing range of Iran's artillery fire. Saddam has recently claimed that Iran's artillery had pounded these cities. His lies were exposed when the people welcomed the combatants of Islam. Another important facet of these operations, which may be unprecedented, is the fact that the rulers of Baghdad heavily bombed these people with chemical weapons simply because they had cooperated with the Iranian forces

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council went on: The tragedy of dropping chemical bombs on Halabjah and nearby cities will turn into a tribunal in history, which will put on trial Iraq's politico-military and propaganda powers. Had Iraq been punished last year, when it used chemical gases—this was confirmed by the United Nations—this tragedy would have not happened. On the contrary, instead of punishing this regime for deploying chemical weapons, the NATO forces arrived in the Persian Gulf in support of Iraq and put fresh missiles, missiles it did not possess before, at its disposal.

Referring to the United States and France preventing the dispatch of UN experts to the Halabjah region, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: We asked the United Nations to send experts to the Halabjah region to inspect the effects of the chemical weapons deployment. However, the United States, by claiming that Iran has also used chemical shells, cast the first shadow of doubt. In reply to a question on the possibility of Iranian retaliatory measures using chemical weapons, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: The presence of

foreign reporters in the Val-Fajr 10 operational theater broke the silence of the international news media. If this trend continues, a move will take place to condemn Iraq. However, should international organizations refuse to take steps to punish Iraq, we will not remain idle. We have the technology to produce chemical weapons; although we have not exploited this technology, there is no guarantee that we will remain idle forever.

In reply to a question from a WASHINGTON POST correspondent on Iran's conditions for terminating the war, the Islamic Majlis speaker said: We have presented our proposal—that is, identification and punishment of the aggressor—to the Security Council. Since we have observed no good intentions from it, we are determined to continue our repeated and relentless blows on the battlefronts, and we have decided to punish the aggressor ourselves.

Talking about the Iran's UN diplomacy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We have grievances with Mr Secretary General for his negligence in performing his duties. It would have been better for the United Nations to adopt a stand vis-a-vis the massacre at Halabjah. In our opinion, the United Nations has shown complacency in the face of these developments and Saddam's latest crimes.

Concerning Soviet deliveries of weapons and missiles to Iraq and its effect on the Iran-USSR relations, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: In our opinion, the Soviet Union is pursuing a policy of hypocrisy and duplicity. We believe that the Soviet Union has placed missiles at Iraq's disposal. When we retrieved some of the missiles intact, it became clear that these weapons were made in 1985-86 and that the parts and equipment used in them to increase these missiles' range to 500 km are all made in the Soviet Union. He added: Since we are neighbors of the USSR, we do not wish to create a crisis in our relations. However, we shall not forget these problems.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the Iraqi officials' false claim that Iranian forces used chemical bombs against Halabjah as totally absurd. He said: We have found evidence in the liberated regions which shows that the people of Halabjah were subjected to chemical bombings at Saddam's behest because they refused to stand against the Iranian forces. If necessary, we will release this evidence. He added: After the operation we suggested to the people of Halabjah that they could go back to Iraq. We informed the International Red Cross of this. None of the city's inhabitants wanted to return to Halabjah.

Concerning China's missile deliveries to Saudi Arabia, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are delighted to see that the Islamic countries are militarily strong, for, ultimately, these weapons will fall into the hands of the people and the revolutionary and Muslim forces. However, we view the delivery of these weapons at this juncture as a mischievous deed aimed at weakening Iran. Thanks be to God, this deed had negative results—the latest response is the successful Val-Fajr 10 operations.

In conclusion, while stressing the need for continuation of operations on the battlefronts, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: At present we have forces and operational plans on all battlefronts. Should the UN Security Council refuse to take any steps toward identifying the aggressor, we will resume our operations. He also said: The world will soon witness remorse by the Iraqi Ba'th Party and its supporters for these latest atrocities.

Visits Chemical Warfare Victims

LD231246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Council, visited a Tehran hospital this morning to see those injured in the Zionist Iraqi regime's chemical attacks on Sulaymaniyah Province. Expressing his sympathy for the victims of these barbarous attacks, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave them some gifts.

Following the visit, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council gave an interview to our reporter and thanked the medical staff of the hospital who are attending the victims. He said: I am surprised at those in Iraq who obey Saddam's orders and attack their own people so barbarously with chemical weapons. The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council stressed: We call upon humane doctors and those who are willing to serve innocent human beings to come here and help, and to see for themselves that the Ba'thists' crimes can in no way be compared to anything that has taken place in the history of warfare.

Answering a question as to what the Islamic Republic of Iran's response would be to the international bodies' silence toward the use of chemical bombs, he said: It is really amazing. Perhaps they do not know as much. But their correspondents have seen some aspects of it. Those who claim they want to serve humanity should try and think of a way to tie the hands of these criminal Ba'thists.

He stressed: This is the best arena to fight against oppression and injustice, against bullying and tyranny. I do not know how and where those who set up radio stations and newspapers as a means of providing a cultural service, or undertake this or that occupation, can provide a service, and how they intend to use their pen in the service of the oppressed and as a struggle against injustice.

Montazeri Discusses Iraqi Attack on Kurds

Meets Ministers, Commanders

LD231838 Tehran IRNA in English
1810 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Qom, March 23, IRNA—Ministers of the Interior and Agriculture Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and 'Abbas-'Ali Zali accompanied by a group of commanders of the Islamic Revolution's committee met with future leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here Tuesday.

During the meeting, which coincided with the birth anniversary of Imam Hoseyn (A.S.), the third imam of Prophet Mohammad's (SAW) household, Ayatollah Montazeri expressed deep regret over the recent crime of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in massacring thousands of Kurdish civilians with toxic gases in the Iranian liberated areas in northeastern Iraq.

Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Mohammad Gharazi had met with the revered Ayatollah Monday.

Cables Musavi

LD211521 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 21 Mar 88

["Text" of cable from Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to the imam's representative in Kurdestan]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr Musavi, eminent representative of the imam, may his shadow extend, in Kurdestan. The defenseless martyrdom of thousands of children and Kurdish Muslim brothers and sisters which was brought about by the savage Ba'thists in Kurdish cities and other liberated areas adds another black page to the crimes of the Iraqi regime's rulers. It is perhaps without precedent in history that a government should treat its innocent people with such savagery. What offense had the Kurdish Muslim brothers and sisters and their young children committed that they should be attacked in this way by Saddam's chemical bombs?

I do not know why international circles and organizations and the so-called defenders of human rights are silent and indifferent in the face of this great historical crime. With what human reasoning or principle is the killing and poisoning of thousands of children, old men, and women, and the burning of Kurdish cities and villages with cluster chemical bombs compatible? It is just this silence of international circles that gave Saddam the courage to attack the great Islamic revolution and the uprisen Iranian nation, and to even feel he is owed something afterward.

If the organizations that hang the human rights label on *themselves had not from the beginning become the* playthings of the superpowers, and if they had condemned Saddam's cruelties and crimes, the world would not witness today so much suffering in the region of the imposed war. Undoubtedly the imposed war would have ended with the victory of right and justice over injustice, corruption, and aggression, and the two Muslim countries of Iraq and Iran would be living side by side in peace and harmony.

However, we are in circumstances in which force can only be answered with force. I hope that our brave combatants, with total coordination and with useful and well thought out plans, will deliver the final response on the fronts and will make the world understand that the logic of aggression and force is not everlasting. Those who help Saddam and put their dollars and weapons at his disposal should know that, in the face of all these crimes, they too are responsible and that the Arabic and Kurdish nations consider them to be accomplices in the crimes.

It is in order that your eminence should, on my behalf, offer sympathy to the aggrieved and suffering families and to the Kurdish Muslim brothers and sisters and convey my regards to the honorable ulema and clergymen of that regin and offer condolences to them for the martyrdom of their dear ones. If in taking note of deficiencies with regard to the material needs of the region and cooperating with the honorable authorities who are trying to fulfill these needs you find any shortfall, do inform me so that I may act to the extent of my power.

I pray to exalted God for the victory and honor of Muslims, for the victory of the combatants of Islam on all the fronts, and for the health and long life of the imam of the ummah. Peace be upon pious servants of God.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, 21 March 1988.

President Khamene'i Holds Meeting in Mashad

LD241007 Tehran IRNA in English
0947 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 24, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i currently in this province to pay pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), said in Kashmar Wednesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not only overcome the U.S. but all arrogant powers as long as "we follow the path of Islam and the holy Koran."

Pointing to the U.S. interventions in the Persian Gulf and its provocation of the Iraqi regime to missile-attack Iran's civilian areas, President Khamene'i stressed that Iranian Muslim nation will not give up its struggle until the aggressor regime of Saddam Husayn is punished.

President Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, made it clear that these enemy schemes will have no effect on Iranian people and the arms embargo will be meaningless. He said Iran not only manufactures modern weapons but meets part of its arms needs from the war booties.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) Hojjat ol-Eslam Vaez Tabasi, [name as received] and several Majlis deputies attended the meeting.

Musavi Visits Cemetery, Hospital in Tehran

LD241209 Tehran IRNA in English
1117 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi attended Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in southern Tehran Thursday morning and paid tribute to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the Iraqi-imposed war. During his visit, the premier also talked with some relatives of martyrs and expressed sympathy with them. Premier Musavi later visited a hospital in the capital where people wounded in Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iran's cities and those injured in the Baghdad regime's chemical attacks on the Iranian liberated areas in northeastern Iraq are hospitalized.

A large number of chemically-wounded Iraqi Kurdish women, children and men are hospitalized in the hospital visited by Premier Musavi. In another development, Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili today visited victims of Iraqi chemical attacks at a hospital in Tehran. Displaying their hatred of the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq, the chemically-wounded Kurdish people called on Iran's Muslim combatants to give a crushing respponse to the Baghdad regime's criminal acts. The chief justice, blaming Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and his Ba'thist regime for their atrocities, criticized international organizations for their silence on these crimes which he said has encouraged Baghdad to further its brutality. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili also lauded the hospital personnel for their services.

WIH Officials Criticize Iraqi Chemical Weapons

Kharrazi Comments

LD231719 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi said here Wednesday that the silence of the UN Security Council towards the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's crimes in chemically-bombing Iraqi town of Halabjah and expansion of these attacks on several Iranian villages in Marivan and Sar Dasht towns will diminish the UN secretary general's success in political talks.

Speaking to foreign and domestic reporters, Kharrazi noted that the silence of international circles towards these crimes has practically encouraged the Baghdad regime to continue its atrocities, adding that the Security Council seems to be worried more about the fall of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime than the chemical bombardment of Halabjah.

"This makes us more suspicious that certain members of the Security Council are behind the Iraqi chemical attacks," he said. He reiterated Iran's firm belief that identification of the aggressor will help secure permanent peace in the region and therefore, he added, the Iranian forces are determined to punish the aggressor (Iraq) if international forums including the Security Council fail to identify and punish Baghdad.

Kharrazi said Iraq has not only dropped chemical bombs on its own towns but several Iranian villages near Marivan and Sar Dasht have also become targets of Iraq's chemical bombardments including deployment of cyanide, mustard and nerve gases.

On the countries supplying the Baghdad regime with chemicals, the WIH head said Iran by presenting evidence has already proved that the United States, Britain and France have supplied Iraq with chemical weapons. On the other hand, he said, with regards to the influence of these three countries as well as the Soviet Union in the Security Council and the Council's silence in this regard reveal that these countries have had hands in the plot engineered in attacking Iranian cities as well as Iraq's extensive use of chemical weapons.

Referring to the relatively rapid reaction of the Security Council toward the former round of Iraq's air attacks on Iran's civilians which led to the June 12 agreement and a halt to the war of the cities, he said the silence of the council indicates as though they themselves are involved in these attacks.

Kharrazi noted that Iran considers the Security Council responsible for the war of the cities although he said the Soviet Union has announced its opposition to these attacks. He blamed the Soviets for supplying Iraq with missiles. He said the explanation by Moscow that the missiles had been modified with the help of experts from other countries was not acceptable.

On the Baghdad regime's possible deployment of chemical weapons against Iranian cities, Kharrazi said the nature of the Iraqi regime is such that it may resort to this crime as well, as it did so in Halabjah against its own people. He said Iran had not decided to use chemical weapons but that "it depends on international measures to stop these Iraqi crimes." He warned however that Iran will be forced to defend itself if the international circles continue to remain silent.

He further noted that the recent Iraqi air and missile attacks on residential quarters in Iran have unveiled the aggressive nature of the Baghdad regime, pointing that Iranian people are now used to hard conditions and are determined to live in basements for years but fight the enemy on the ground.

Spokesman on U.S., French Stands

LD241348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] The U.S. and French Governments, by openly supporting the Iraqi regime, are obstructing the United Nations from despatching an expert mission to prepare a report on the Iraqi regime's horrific crimes in its chemical bombing of Halabjah and the Iranian villages around the city of Marivan. Our next news report concerns the remarks made by the WIH spokesman:

The WIH spokesman, condemning this inhuman move on the part of the United States and France, announced: The parameters of the inhuman acts by the ruling circles of these two countries have reached such dimensions that, in their support for the 100 percent inhuman regime of Iraq, they are putting stumbling blocks in front of the United Nations in its attempts to prepare a report on the Iraqi regime's horrific crimes.

He added: The Iraqi regime's in its extensive deployment of chemical weapons are now threatening mankind. But the United States and France, ignoring the worldwide dangers posed by the deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, are opposing the international inspection of this great crime. He continued: This inhuman move on the part of the United States and France will never be forgotten by the human-loving people of the world and, notably, the aggrieved nations of Iran and Iraq. The WIH spokesman pointed to the biased U.S. stand vis-a-vis Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons. The United States has rushed to Iraq's assistance on the diplomatic scene.

It is also endeavoring, through propaganda, to distort the horrific Iraqi crime and thus to try and rescue Baghdad from the political and publicity rut in which it has placed itself. In describing this stand, he said: While the U.S. White House spokesman considered that the deployment of chemical weapons in Iraq's war against Iran is cruel and vile, the U.S. State Department spokesman believes that there is some evidence indicating that Iran, too, has deployed chemical weapons in the war. The State Department spokesman, without presenting the slightest evidence for his baseless and farcical claim, and by intensifying the matter, is trying to reduce existing international pressure on the Iraqi regime.

The WIH spokesman said in conclusion: It is not without reason that the U.S. has rushed in such a war to assist Iraq, since western regimes, including the criminal United States, are among those who have encouraged Iraq to use chemical weapons. But now that the ugly and vile face of the Iraqi regime in its deployment of chemical weapons has become clearly exposed to the people of the world, the only results that these feeble endeavors will have is that the world's people will be more than ever aware that the ruling circles of the United States and France are hand in hand with the Iraqi regime in killing and massacring civilians with chemical weapons.

Red Cross Condemns Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

LD231819 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] London, March 23, IRNA—In an unusual statement Wednesday, the International Committee of the Red Cross condemned the Iraqi regime's chemical bombing of its own people in Kurdestan and offered Iran emergency help with the victims.

"The use of chemical weapons, whether against military personnel or civilians, is absolutely forbidden by international law and is to be condemned at all times," it said.

The statement does not specifically name Iraq as the culprit, which has been evidenced by dozens of foreign reporters in a visit to the Kurdish town of Halabjah, but goes on to say that it has now told Iran of its readiness to provide emergency help.

The condemnation and offer of assistance by the Red Cross follows the occupation of the British Red Cross offices in London by Iraqi Kurds furious about the lack of international concern about the extent of Iraq's latest crimes in which it left over 5,000 civilians dead and another 5,000 chemically wounded.

The Red Cross in London said that it was "rare" for the International Committee to make a statement on any matter. Earlier it had stated that it was "restricted" in what it could do.

Lebanese Hizballah, Others Condemn Iraqi Attacks

LD231253 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—Prominent Muslim personalities and groups around the world have strongly condemned the Iraqi regime's chemical attacks on the Iranian liberated Kurdish town of Halabjah in northeastern Iraq, through staging demonstrations and releasing statements.

Lebanon's Hizballah Party cabled a message to leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni, expressing deep condolences over the martyrdom of thousands of Iraqi Kurds in the chemical bombing of Halabjah by the Baghdad regime.

In a separate statement released on Wednesday, Hizballah denounced the Baghdad regime's atrocities against Iraqi Kurdish Muslims, saying that Soviet Union was responsible for these crimes.

The community of ulema in Lebanon sent messages of condolences to the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, and the future leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn-'Ali Montazeri, respectively today.

It also called on the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) who have gathered in Amman to condemn the Baghdad regime for its 'unprecedented crimes' including missile and air attacks on Iran's cities and chemical attacks on Halabjah.

Meanwhile, Kurdish and Arab Iraqi Muslims residing in Syria issued separate statements in Damascus today, castigating the Iraqi regime for its cold-bloodedly slaughter of defenceless Kurdish Muslims in northern Iraq.

The statements also called on all Iraqi dissidents throughout Iraq to close their ranks in a effort to confront the ever-increasing crimes committed by the Baghdad regime and to step up their efforts to topple the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq.

Meanwhile, the Turkish daily GUNES wrote today that the order for the chemical bombardments of Halabjah and Dujaylah as well as other Iranian liberated Iraqi towns and villages had been issued by the person of Saddam Husayn.

IRGC Commander Reviews 'Val-Fajr 10' Operations

LD240924 Tehran IRNA in English
0855 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i in a televised interview Wednesday outlined the achievements of the Val-Fajr-10 operations, launched by Iran's Muslim combatants in the northeastern Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah March 16. The IRGC commander said that with liberation of a vast area of Iraqi territory during the victorious Val-Fajr-10 operations, Iranian combatants had opened a new front to deal more fatal blows on Iraqi troops.

Over 10,000 Iraqi casualties, 4,000 POWS, destruction of more than 500 enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers and seizure intact of 200 others were among the severe blows dealt on the enemy during the operations, he said.

Reza'i said the dimensions of the Val-Fajr-10 operations were so extensive it caught the world by surprise.

Iran's Muslim combatants are now stationed less than 10 kms from the Baghdad-Al-Sulaymaniyah junction, posing serious threat to the line connecting Baghdad and Al-Sulaymaniyah Provinces, he said.

The commander said the newly-opened front ranks third in importance after fronts of Baghdad and Basra, and that if the enemy wants to defend all three fronts it has to add two new corps or 30 percent of its military capacity to its army.

The Iraqi Ba'thist Army is now threatened by a serious social crisis because of its manpower shortages, high casualty toll on the battlefields and exhaustion of its soldiers, he said.

The IRGC commander also thanked all Iraqi opposition groups for their sincere cooperation with Iran's Muslim combatants during the operations.

Missile Attacks, Ground Operations Continue

Basra, Khanaqin Hit

LD231630 Tehran IRNA in English
1619 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—Five Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired at economic and military centers of the Iraqi cities of Khanaqin and Basra Wednesday in revenge for Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iran's cities.

According to the joint staff command of the armed forces, the enemy sustained heavy casualties and losses in the Iranian retaliatory missile attacks which occurred at 11:05, 11:40, 12:18, 13:55 and 14:05 hours local time (07:35, 08:10, 08:48, 10:25 and 10:35 GMT).

Iraqi Aircraft Downed

LD231725 Tehran IRNA in English
1718 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Val-Fajr-10 operational theater at 18:39 hours local time (15:09 GMT) Wednesday. The pilot of the intruding plane which crashed around Nowsud, western Iran was also killed.

Communique No 3,170

LD231828 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—Iran's Air Force planes effectively carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Tuesday in support of Iranian Navy and reconnoitered some 57 foreign vessels, said a military communique released here Wednesday.

The 3170th communique of the Joint Staff Command said Iranian naval forces intercepted 24 foreign cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard.

The communique said military and economic installations of Mandali, Khanaqin, Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali al-Sharqi in Iraq were subjected to Iranian artillery fire as a result of which the enemy forces sustained substantial casulties and damage.

A ground forces unit of the Islamic Republic's Army killed and wounded some 200 Iraqi soldiers in an infiltration attack on Iraqi positions in Kushk region, at 02:00 hours local time Tuesday (22:30 GMT Monday), said the communique adding the Muslim forces of Iran after crossing mine-fields destroyed three machine-guns, some vehicles and 20 bunkers and observation posts of Iraqi forces. The Muslim combatants returned to their bases safely, it added.

Exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged on in the war fronts being somewhat more intense in Kushk and Talayeh as a result of which parts of Iraqi positions were destroyed and three munitions dumps of theirs set ablaze, said the communique, adding some Ba'thist troops were also killed and wounded.

New 'Val-Fajr 10' Operations

LD240729 Tehran IRNA in English
0724 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants launched the 5th stage of the Val-Fajr 10 operations in Sayyid Sadiq Region in the northeastern Iraqi Province of Sulaymaniyah in the midnight Wednesday.

Missiles Hit Tehran

LD240811 Tehran IRNA in English
0808 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Two hospitals and two mosques were among the areas hit by Iraqi missiles in Tehran this morning. Some residential areas were also attacked, and according to early reports a number of civilians were martyred and wounded.

200 Iraqi Casualties

LD240926 Tehran IRNA in English
0910 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Iranian Muslim combatants have so far killed or wounded 200 Iraqi troops during the fifth stage of Val-Fajr-10 operations launched on Khormal [name as received]-Seyyid Sadiq axis, northeastern Iraq, Wednesday night. The axis is the only link of Iraqi forces stationed in northern Sulaymaniyah Province, to Val-Fajr-10 theater. The enemy forces using several fresh brigades were preparing for a counterattack when they faced a blitz attack of the Muslim forces. According to the latest reports, Iraqi Infantry Brigade 95 is sieged and scores of enemy tanks were set ablaze by Iranian combatants.

Iraqi Brigade 'Wiped Out'

LD240940 Tehran IRNA in English
0914 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants wiped out Iraqi Infantry Brigade 95 and some strategic heights in the 5th stage of the Val-Fajr-10 operations launched in Seyyid Sadiq region in northeastern Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah in the midnight Wednesday. Iranian combatants after pitched battles with Iraqi troops advanced towards the strategic Rishan Heights overlooking Seyyid Sadiq town, liberating Heights 539, 521 and 557. The Second Commando Brigade of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army is now surrounded by Iranian forces and is on the verge of total destruction.

9 Bombing Missions

LD240947 Tehran IRNA in English
0912 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in nine separate missions Thursday heavily bombed Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and armoured units in the Val-Fajr-10 operational theater in the northeastern Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy. Announcing the above here today, a Joint Staff communique said the fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 07:08, 07:12, 07:59, 09:10, 09:14, 09:30, 10:00, 10:04, and 10:20 (03:38, 03:42, 04:29, 05:40, 05:44, 06:00, 06:30, 06:34 and 06:50 GMT).

Iraqi Battalions 'Destroyed'

LD241001 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0930 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] There is no might and no power except with God, the almighty. [Koranic verse] God-seeking Iranian ummah. An enemy counterattack on the (Khurmal)-Sayyid Sadiq axis was crushed as a result of the heroism of the children of you, the heroic Iranian nation. According to a report received from the Val-Fajr 10 operational zone, two battalions from the 80th Armored Brigade of the enemy's 17th Division, brought to the operational area to carry out a counterattack, were destroyed as a result of the peerless heroism of the forces of Islam and the vigilance of the antiarmor units of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Ground Forces. In this heavy battle, more than 8 tanks and 15 vehicles of the mercenary Iraqi forces were set on fire, and hundreds of Ba'thist mercenaries were killed or wounded. A number of them were also captured. The number of enemy personnel captured in this stage of the operations has now reached 310. May victory accompany the heavy and liberating battles of the fighters of Islam.

Commando Brigade 'Routed'

LD241105 Tehran IRNA in English
1017 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Second Commando Brigade of the Iraqi Army was totally routed after destruction of its Infantry Brigade 95 in continuation of the fifth stage of Val-Fajr-10 operations today. So far hundreds of Ba'thist troops have been killed or wounded and more than 250 Iraqi officers, NCO's, and soldiers

captured and evacuated behind frontlines. Heavy fighting is continuing on Rishan Heights, with complete superiority of the Iranian combatants.

Rishan Heights Captured

LD241114 Tehran IRNA in English
1101 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Iranian combatants liberated Rishan Strategic Heights and stationed eight kms from the Iraqi town of Sayyid Sadiq, in the fifth stage of victorious Val-Fajr-10 operations launched Wednesday night. The operational theater lies between the liberated Iraqi heights of Suran to the north, a vast plain east of Darbandikhan Lake [name as received] to the south, liberated Iraqi town of Khormal [name as received] to the east, and Sayyid Sadiq to the west. The major geographical feature of the region is Rishin Strategic Heights located near the Khormal-Sayyid Sadiq axis. Sayyid Sadiq is located 45 kms southwest of the liberated town of Halabjah.

Helicopter Downed

LD241121 Tehran IRNA in English
1107 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Amrch 24, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran by advancing towards Khormal [name as received]-Sayyid Sadiq axis in the northeastern Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah during the 5th stage of Val-Fajr-10 operations, liberated heights 1058 and Rishin Heights overlooking Sayyid Sadiq town. During the liberation of Rishin Heights, and Iraqi helicopter was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. The fifth stage of the Val-Fajr-10 operations was launched Wednesday night.

110 Tehran Casualties

LD241202 Tehran IRNA in English
1121 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran March 24, IRNA—At least ten people were martyred and 100 others wounded in Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran this morning. Two hospitals, including a physiotherapy ward as well as two mosques, one high school, one school, and a number of houses, shops and cards were also damaged in these attacks.

Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD241325 Tehran IRNA in English
1214 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 24, IRNA—Two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were lobbed on two military centers in Baghdad at 14:45 and 14:47 hours local time (11:15 and 11:17 GMT) today. A statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said the attacks were in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iran's civilian areas. It reiterated that Iran's retaliatory attacks will firmly continue until Baghdad stops its attacks on civilians. Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran today left 110 civilian casualties.

Communique on New Operations

LD241330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A communique of the Khatem ol-Anbiya Headquarters, center for the direction of the operations of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning the fifth stage of the victorious Val-Fajr 10 operations was issued a few moments ago. It reads as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mohammad, the Prophet of God, and those who are with Him are merciful toward each other but harsh on the enemy. Great and noble Islamic ummah of Iran. Muslim nation of Iraq; dear pained and harmed Kurds. Your combatant and epic-making offspring of our resistant nation, continuing their sacred defense, and in response to the oppressed cries of the deprived Muslim Kurds of Iraq, began the fifth stage of the Val-Fajr 10 operations last night on the happy anniversary of the birth of the holy 'Ali ibn al-Hoseyn, the prostrator imam—may God's peace be upon him.

In these operations the brave basijis and the powerful troops of the IRGC Ground Forces, while chanting "there is no God but God", directed their revolutionary fire on the sworn enemies of the Muslim Iraqi nation, and courageously and decisively showed their reaction to the vile, base deed of the criminal in its chemical bombing of the innocent city of Halabjah, on the battlefronts of war.

In these operations, carried out on (Khurmal)-Sayyid Sadiq axis in Sulaymaniyah Province, Iraq, nine sensitive heights in the region, including Height 1,058 and Rishin Heights overlooking the important city of Sayyid Sadiq, were liberated after a heroic battle by the epic-makers of the Mohammad Corps. Your fighting offspring captured these heights after crushing various units of the criminal Ba'thists army with steadfastness and firmness. They are now fortifying their defensive positions.

In these operations, several other villages in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province were liberated; several armored brigades and battalions of the puny enemy, which intended to embark on counteroffensives, were destroyed in the course of ambush operations by the combatants of Islam; and the remainder of the enemy's troops were forced to leave their positions by the forces of Islam.

In the course of the successful battles of the 5th stage of the Val-Fajr 10 operations, the 95th Infantry Brigade, the 2d Commando Brigade of V Corps, two battalions of the 80th Armored Brigade of the 17th Army Division, and two battalions of the 46th Armored Brigade of the 12th Army Division of the criminal army of Iraq were destroyed. Thirty percent casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy's 25th Mechanized Brigade.

In these operations, during which the suprise onslaught of the combatants of Islam totally upset and disrupted the military formation of the enemy's units, more than 30 tanks and tens of armored personnel carriers and various enemy vehicles were set on fire and destroyed, and a substantial amount of weapons and mechanized equipment of the destroyed units of the Iraqis were captured by the troops of monotheism.

The killing and wounding of more than 1,000 more troops of Saddam's mercenary army, bring the number of enemy killed and wounded from the start of the great Val-Fajr 10 to more than 11,000. Also, 410 more officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces were captured; the number of the POW's in the Val-Fajr 10 operations since the start of the operations has now reached over 4,400. In these operations, which enjoyed the backing of the brave and courageous pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic, one intruder and one helicopter of the Iraqi army were downed by the alert units of the operational sectors.

The forces of Islam are now 8 km east of the Iraqi city of Sayyid Sadiq, and are positioned on the Khurmal to Sayyid Sadiq road. They are controlling and monitoring enemy movements.

May this victory on the glorious anniversary of the birth of the fourth star of velayat and imamate, the holy 'Ali ibn Hoseyn—may God's peace be upon him—be salutory to the imam and the nation. If you assist God, He will assist you and strengthen your step.

Candidates for Majlis Elections Announced

LD211355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Excerpt] At the end of this newscast, the names of the 140 eligible candidates from Tehran for the third term of Islamic Majlis elections are hereby announced. On the basis of this report, in accordance with Article 53 of the election law and Form 12 of the election notice, the names of the candidates whose eligibility has been endorsed are hereby announced for the benefit of the martyr-nurturing ummah and citizens of Tehran constituency.

In accordance with Note 1 of Article 53, those candidates whose eligibility has not been endorsed and who have any objections can personally send their written complaints within 4 days to the supervisory committee of Tehran Province, Naqshab Avenue, behind Shahid Motahhari Avenue, Building No 2 of the Islamic Majlis, so their cases can be investigated. [passage omitted]

Mojahedin-e Khalq Members Reportedly Executed

TA231414 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that some 200 Mojahedin-e Khalq members were detained and imprisoned by Islamic Republic agents during the past few days. These individuals were apparently arrested for planting bombs in various Tehran locations in the last 4 weeks. Rumors circulating in informed Tehran circles indicate that the Islamic regime executed a number of Mojahedin-e Khalq members in the past few days. Informed sources report that the Mojahedin-e Khalq, whose central headquarters is in Baghdad, detonated several car bombs in different Tehran neighborhoods over the last 4 weeks. The Islamic Republic agents, exploiting the mistake of a Mojahedin-e Khalq member, identified one of their networks and arrested its members.

Imports Provide 'About Half' National Oil Needs

JN231808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Vienna, 23 Mar (INA)—Informed oil sources said here today that Iran imports about half of its needs of oil products after the Iraqi air raids on oil refineries in Tehran and Tabriz. The sources told an INA correspondent in Vienna that gas constitutes 60 percent of the Iranian imports of oil products, while the rest of products constitute the remaining percentage.

The sources added that although the Iranian regime is trying to keep importation of oil products secret, Iran has signed contracts with international companies to export 300,000 barrels per day over approximately 1 year.

On the other hand, these sources affirmed that oil installations in Khark Island have been directly hit by the Iraqi air raid on it on 19 March, in addition to the tankers which were hit at that raid.

Pakistan

Jordan's King Husayn Speaks at Dinner Banquet

JN232020 Amman PETRA-JNA in English 1710 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, Mar 23 PETRA-JNA—H.M. King Husayn reiterated that peace and justice in the Middle East can only be realized through convening an international peace conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council with the participation of all parties to the conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, to find means for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which "stipulate among other things, the inadmissibility of acquistion of territory by force and require the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 in return for peace", the king said.

His Majesty was speaking at a dinner banquet hosted here last night by Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Mrs Ziaul Haq in honour of Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur.

In his address. The king called upon Pakistan to employ its good offices and special relations with Iran to put an end to the bloodshed in the Iraq-Iran war.

Iraq, his majesty said, "has consistently responded positively ever since the war broke out, to all efforts made for putting an end to the conflict and for reaching a just and peaceful settlement that would safeguard the legitimate historical rights and interests of the two countries". But, the king went on to say "our brothers that rule in Tehran have blocked every venue, contravened the decrees of Allah, and defied the will of ummah" in their insitence to prolong the war and persistence in this sedition, which has weakened the Muslims. Threatened stability in the region and opened the door for foreign intervention.

Following is full text of the king's address:

Your Excellency, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Honoured Begum Mrs Ziaul Haq, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my distinct pleasure and the source of great happiness to me to be with you, dear brothers, tonight. My happiness is all the greater since I find myself in this invincible citadel. This steadfast outpost of Islam that was created out of foundations of righteousness and profound belief in Allah. Queen Nur and the accopmanying Jordanian delegation join me in expressing our joy on this occasion and our deep appreciation of the gracious hospitality and warm reception accorded to us from the very moment we set foot in your beautiful country which makes us indeed feel that we are in our second homeland.

I am grateful for this gracious occasion for according me the opportunity to express to you, and through you to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, my greatest appreciation of the firmly rooted relations that bind us together under the common faith, with which the Almighty has honoured us both. I look forward to the meetings we will have and the talks we will hold in the next few days, as we build on the postive and invaluable accomplishments that resulted from your excellency's and your esteemed companions' visit to your second homeland in Jordan last October. We are confident that our present discussions today, will as in the past, bear fruit for the good of our countries and the good of the common Islamic endeavours to which, being members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, we both subscribe.

Since my visit to your country coincides with your celebrations of Pakistan's independence day, I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations and those of the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to you and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on this great national occasion, and pray to Allah Almighty that He may help you and bless your efforts in leading your country and people along the paths of progress and prosperity.

Your Excellency,

The especially close brotherly relations that tie Jordan and Pakistan are a model of how relations among the brother nations in Dar al-Islam [Islamic region] should be. We will always remember with gratitude your excellency's selfless work and devoted efforts among us when you helped us in Jordan to reorganize our armed forces and strengthen our defensive capabilities against the grave challenges that we faced after the 1967 war. Similarly, we can never forget that while you were fighting to attain freedom and independence for your country, you did not overlook the plight of your brethren in Palestine. We and the people of Palestine will together always be indebted to your leader, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, and to the late Sir Mohammad Zafarallah Khan, for their efforts to secure justice for Palestine and to avert the intended harm and oppression that was being perpetrated against its people.

Your Excellency,

It is a pleasure for me to recall on each occasion and on every visit to your noble country the valuable contributions of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on behalf of the common Islamic effort. This blessed Islamic soil has historically generously contributed to the great edifice of Islamic thought and culture and has nurtured many of its greatest luminaries such as the founder of the state, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the enlightened poet and intellectual Mohammad Iqbal, and the outstanding thinkers Abul A'la al-Mawdudi, and Abu al-Hasan al- Nadawi.

Gratitude dictates that I should also commend your invaluable efforts and contributions within the context of the Organization of Islamic Conference, whose permanent committee for scientific and technological cooperation is honoured to have your excellency for its chairman, and which will with Allah's help prove to be the most effective means for the Islamic states in catching up with the modern pace of scientific knowledge and technological innovation. I note with pleasure this committee's decision to accept Jordan's offer to host the Islamic Academy of Sciences, which your excellency visited last October in Amman, a gesture that confirmed your excellency's devotion to the objectives of the Organization of Islamic Conference, chief among which is establishing a firm foundation for Islamic solidarity as decreed by Allah Almighty and preached by his great messenger Muhammad, may Allah's blessings be upon him.

Under your excellency's leadership Pakistan has demonstrated its adherence to the Islamic concept of solidarity and provided a categorical example of it when it embraced the millions of refugees from among our Moslem Afghan brethren and provided them with shelter, and assistance to mitigate their plight, so that the people of Pakistan may be said, to quote the well-known verse in the Qur'an "to prefer (the fugitive) above themselves though poverty be their lot". We are fully confident, Mr. President, that you will help the present international effort aimed at bringing about a successful

solution to the conflict in Afghanistan in a manner that will safeguard its independence and restore its peace and stability so that Afghanistan may resume once again its progress towards prosperity and take its natural palce amidst the Islamic nation.

Your Excellency,

Let [as received] find myself called upon to describe in any detail the tragedy of Palestine and the flight of its people. Your Excellency has had first-hand experience of it when you were amongst us in Jordan. As you know, the Arab-Isreali conflict has entered its fortieth year, twenty one years have elapsed since Israel has occupied dear parts of Arab land, chief among them Al-Quds Al-Sharif. Nineteen years have gone by since the attempt was made to burn down Al-Aqsa mosque, the first of the two qiblas and the third most divine of Islam, Al-Aqsa, remains captive to the same danger and subject to the same threat. It also continues to call upon every Muslim to help bring about its liberation. We appreciate your unrelenting support for us in our efforts to regain the usurped rights for their legitimate owners and to bring about peace and justice based on international legitimacy. We particularly appreciate your concurrence with us that the solution can come only through the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to find the means for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate, among other things, the inadmissiblity of acquisition of territory by force and require the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 in return for peace. We hope that you and the Muslim world in general will support us in this endeavour and that you will continue your contacts with the international powers to persuade them to accept this framework for the solution and to put it into effect.

Your Excellency,

In the light of tragic conditions imposed on the occupied Arab territories by the practices of the Zionist occupation under the very noses of all those who constantly brandish the slogans of "freedom" and "human rights", I appeal to your excellency to employ your good offices and your special relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, to put an end to the bloodshed in the Iran-Iraq war, which has drained the two countries' human and natural resources, and weakened the Islamic community. Iraq, Mr. President, has consistently responded positively ever since the war broke out to all the efforts made for putting an end to the conflict and for reaching a just and peaceful settlement that would safeguard the legitimate historical rights and interests of the two countries. Iraq has also consistently expressed its readiness to abide by the divine decree that calls upon all Muslims to refrain from the shedding of Muslim blood, and has honoured the calls for peace by the leaders of the ummah. Iraq has left no venue for peace unexplored and no well-intentioned initative unaccepted. But our brothers that rule in Tehran have blocked every venue, contravened the decrees of Allah, and defied the will of the ummah, in their insistence on ruinous policies and persistence in this sedition which has weakened the Muslims, threatened stability and the security of the entire region, and opened the doors for foreign intervention. I recall in this context, Mr. President, what I stated before my brothers, the leaders of the Islamic ummah, in their summit conference in Kuwait last year "that the only losers, if the war is allowed to continue, will be the Muslims and Arabs everywhere and that the only victors will be the enemies of Islam, whatever their creed and whoever they may be. "Our hope remains that our brothers in Tehran will respond favourably to the calls for peace, abide by the dictates of Islam, listen to the council of conscience and reason, and give up the role of the "aggressive faction" in this ugly and costly war. [quotation marks as received]

In view of this situation, I appeal again to your distinguished statesmanship, Mr. President, and to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to give this matter the utmost attention it deserves, and to resume your good efforts to persuade the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond favourably to the peace efforts, to abide by the will of the ummah, and to accept Security Council Resolution 598 as the minimum basis for the process of a historic reconciliation between those two Muslim countries, which are linked together by common faith, neighbourhood, and the intertwined mutual interests of their respective peoples. Clearly, what is required is not putting an end to the war of cities and the attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, but putting an end to the war itself on the basis of good neighbourly relations. This is what the Arab leaders have unanimously agreed upon in their extraordinary summit held in Amman last November.

Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I note the excellent progress of our very special mutual relations. Our cooperation continues to grow at all levels, the mutual agreements successively reached by our two countries since 1961 in the fields of culture, trade, tourism, aviation, exchange of labour, elimination of double taxation, have all contribute to the growth of our relations.

I would like to take this occasion to affirm once again that we will do all possible to further our cooperation in all fields for the benefit of both countries.

I would like, in conclusion, to express once more my appreciation for the opportunity to visit your beautiful country, and to have the pleasure of meeting you and Mrs Ziaul Haq, hoping that you will give me and Queen Nur the opportunity to welcome you soon in Amman.

Now I would like to ask the distinguished presence to salute His Excllency President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the honoured begum, Mrs. Ziaul Haq, and to salute the excellent brotherly relations between Pakistan and Jordan.

Peace be unto you and Allah's mercy and blessings.

Sri Lanka

'Terrorist' Attack on Police Station Repulsed

BK241115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] A terrorist attack on the Batticaloa police station, which lasted for about 45-minutes this morning [as heard], was repulsed by the Sri Lanka police and IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] personnel.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that LTTE terrorists threw grenades and sporadically fired at the police station around 1100 yesterday. The police and Indian troops returned the fire and the sources said that there were no casualties among the security forces. Terrorist casualties are not known.

Delhi Reports on Situation

BK240342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, life continued to be at a standstill in eastern Batticaloa as the indefinite curfew clamped yesterday continued. The curfew was clamped after a grenade was thrown at Batticaloa police quarters last afternoon.

Two [Indian] Peacekeeping soldiers were killed and four injured in a landmine blast at Kiran in Batticaloa District. The incident occurred when they were on a routine patrol.

In the south of Sri Lanka, three persons were killed by suspected JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] elements in separate incidents of violence yesterday.

Army, Police Take Over Village Security Role

BK231341 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1325 GMT 23 Mar 88

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—The security of Muslim and Sihnala villages in the North-Central and Eastern Provinces has been vested in the Sri Lankan Army and the police.

This was stated by Gamini Dissanayake, Sri Lankan minister of land, land development and Mahaweli development, when he addressed a gathering of villagers in Trincomalee, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced in its evening news bulletin .

He said that this arrangement was made possible following his visit to India at the request of President Jayewardene, recently.

The Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) will continue with the work to disarm and arrest terrorists.

Minister Dissanayake said terrorists are now adopting hysterical tactics to destroy Sinhala and Muslims civilians who oppose them.

This he said is clearly shown by terrorist killings of innocent civilians.

He said he was optimistic that the new arrangement will bear results soon.

Indian Troops Continue Hunt for Prabhakaran

BK241051 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1030 GMT 24 Mar 88

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 24 (LANKA PUWATH)—Amid the speculation as to the whereabouts of LTTE Leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) continued its operation 'Vajra' [against Tamil extremists] yesterday and shot dead two LTTE terrorists in separate confrontations in northern Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said that at Pudukudaiiruppu in Mullaitivu an LTTE terrorist, Durga, was shot dead by the IPKF and one AK-47 rifle with 3 magazines were recovered.

At Kallapadu, also in the Mullaitivu District, an LTTE terrorist, Jeyachandran, was killed by the Indian troops and one .38 locally made revolver, 10 rounds of .38 ammunition and one hand grenade were recovered.

In IPKF operations in the Jaffna sector one LTTE terrorist surrendered at Champiyanpattu.

The Indian Peacekeeping Force in search operations recovered at Velani 2 kilograms of explosives, one 120mm mortar bomb, and one Yamaha motorcycle yesterday.

The IPKF also seized one M-16 rifle, one GM-A3 [as received] rifle, one FNC rifle, 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, and 100 rounds of 7.62 ammunition at Thampalai.